

PY 2026-2027 Community Needs Assessment Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families

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Overview

Butler County is located in southwestern Ohio and is bordered by Montgomery County and Preble County to the north, Warren County to the east, Hamilton County to the south, and Franklin and Union counties, Indiana, to the west. The county seat, Hamilton, is approximately 30 miles north of Cincinnati and 38 miles south of Dayton. Butler County was formed in 1803 and has six cities (Fairfield, Hamilton, Middletown, Monroe, Trenton and Oxford), six villages and thirteen townships.

Served by rail lines, interstate highways, and two nearby international airports, Butler County continues to attract businesses. According to Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber's 2024 State of the Region, job growth in Butler County increased by 2.9% from 2018 to 2023. Although jobs have increased, the positions and wages available often do not allow families to achieve self-sufficiency.

The May 2024 report from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics identified that workers in the Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average hourly wage of \$30.78, while the nationwide average was \$32.66. Office and administrative support occupations accounted for the largest employment sector with 12% of the employment area at an average wage of \$23.42 per hour, followed by transportation and material moving occupations (10.1% averaging \$22.97) and food preparation and serving related occupations (9.7% percent, averaging \$16.31). These wages are well below the \$34.22 hourly wage for an adult and two school age children to be self-sufficient, according to the 2025 Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) Self-Sufficiency Calculator.

In 2023, Ohio's poverty rate decreased slightly from 13.4% to 13.2% but is still higher than the nation's 12.5% poverty rate, according to the *2025 State of Poverty in Ohio Report*, published by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies. The report highlights the correlation between living in poverty and having a lower life expectancy and states that "while researchers note that access to healthcare is a major factor in life expectancy, they also identify access to housing, transportation, food, and other elements as having a profound effect as well." The report identifies Ohio as "a state of deserts. Food deserts. Healthcare deserts. Pharmacy deserts. Lack of access to essential goods and services has a significant impact on poverty in Ohio, and by extension has a significant impact on lifespans in Ohio."

Community Data

Population and Demographics

Butler County is the seventh most populous of Ohio's 88 counties and the second most populous of the Tri-state Area (Southwest Ohio/Southeast Indiana/Northern Kentucky).

Butler County had a population of 390,357 in 2020, according to the 2025 Edition of Ohio County Profiles, published by the Ohio Department of Development. The county's population is projected to be 394,365 by 2030.

Butler County's population grew by 6.04% from 2010-2020, increasing from 368,129 persons in 2010 to 390,357 persons in 2020. The entire state of Ohio only grew by 2.28% during the same period, according to U.S. Census data. The 2024-2026 Community Health Improvement Plan for Butler County and the Cities of Hamilton & Middletown reported that Middletown's population increased by 5% and Hamilton's increased by 1% since 2010.

Life expectancy in Butler County is 77.25 years, which is lower than the national life expectancy of 78.69 years.

The National Community Action Partnership produced the following data and charts on population and demographics for Butler County, Ohio based on 2023 Census data.

Population

A total of 389,910 people live in the 466.52 square mile report area defined for this assessment according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2019-23 5-year estimates. The population density for this area, estimated at 836 persons per square mile, is greater than the national average population density of 94 persons per square mile.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Butler County, OH	389,910	466.52	836
Ohio	11,780,046	40,858.81	288
United States	332,387,540	3,533,298.58	94

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Total Population Change, 2010-2020

According to the United States Census Bureau Decennial Census, between 2010 and 2020 the population in the report area grew by 22,228 persons, a change of 6.04%. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources.

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010-2020	Population Change, 2010-2020, Percent
Butler County, OH	368,129	390,357	22,228	6.04%
Ohio	11,536,505	11,799,448	262,943	2.28%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	7.13%

Total Population by Gender

This indicator reports the total population of the report area by gender.

The percentage values could be interpreted as, for example, "Among the total report area population, the percentage of population that is male is (value)."

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Butler County, OH	192,522	197,388	49.38%	50.62%
Ohio	5,809,077	5,970,969	49.31%	50.69%
United States	164,545,087	167,842,453	49.50%	50.50%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Total Population by Age Groups

This indicator reports the total population of the report area by age groups.

Report Area	Age 0-4	Age 5-17	Age 18-24	Age 25-34	Age 35-44	Age 45-54	Age 55-64	Age 65+
Butler County, OH	22,831	69,031	46,582	46,108	48,307	46,829	49,687	60,535
Ohio	675,616	1,934,563	1,046,523	1,550,140	1,459,379	1,429,147	1,581,635	2,103,043
United States	18,939,899	54,705,339	30,307,641	45,497,632	43,492,887	40,847,713	42,626,382	55,970,047

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Total Population by Race

This indicator reports the total population of the report area by race alone, without considering respondents' ethnicity. An ACS survey respondent may identify as a single race or may choose multiple races. Respondents selecting multiple categories are racially identified as "Two or More Races."

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races
Butler County, OH	303,855	32,333	15,947	541	192	9,438	27,604
Ohio	9,167,192	1,446,466	288,117	17,151	4,229	186,517	670,374
United States	210,875,446	41,070,890	19,352,659	2,924,996	629,292	21,940,536	35,593,721

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Non-Hispanic White Population by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Butler County, OH	145,910	149,963	49.32%	50.68%
Ohio	4,452,484	4,558,617	49.41%	50.59%
United States	95,941,109	97,397,158	49.62%	50.38%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Hispanic Population by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Butler County, OH	13,119	12,704	50.80%	49.20%
Ohio	274,699	262,860	51.10%	48.90%
United States	31,941,775	31,189,814	50.60%	49.40%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Black or African American Population by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Butler County, OH	15,818	16,515	48.92%	51.08%
Ohio	697,985	748,481	48.25%	51.75%
United States	19,716,762	21,354,128	48.01%	51.99%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Veteran Population

This indicator reports the percentage of the population age 18 and older that served (even for a short time), but is not currently serving, on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or the Coast Guard, or that served in the U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. Of the 297,676 population of the report area, 18,238 or 6.13% are veterans.

Report Area	Total Population Age 18+	Total Veterans	Veterans, Percent of Total Population
Butler County, OH	297,676	18,238	6.13%
Ohio	9,157,684	626,617	6.84%
United States	257,456,135	16,569,149	6.44%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Population Age 18-64

Of the estimated 389,910 total population in the report area, an estimated 237,513 persons are between the ages of 18 and 64, representing 60.91% of the population. These data are based on the latest U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5- year estimates. The number of adults in the report area is relevant because this population has unique needs which should be considered separately from other age groups.

Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 18-64	Population Age 18-64, Percent
Butler County, OH	389,910	237,513	60.91%
Ohio	11,780,046	7,066,824	59.99%
United States	332,387,540	202,772,255	61.00%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2019-23.

Population Age 65+

Of the estimated 389,910 total population in the report area, an estimated 60,535 persons are adults aged 65 and older, representing 15.53% of the population. These data are based on the latest U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 5- year estimates. The number of older adults in the report area is relevant because this population has unique needs which should be considered separately from other age groups.

Report Area	Total Population	Population Age 65+	Population Age 65+, Percent
Butler County, OH	389,910	60,535	15.53%
Ohio	11,780,046	2,103,043	17.85%
United States	332,387,540	55,970,047	16.84%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2019-23.

Life Expectancy

Report Area	Total Population (2010-2015)	Life Expectancy at Birth (2010-2015)
Butler County, OH	372,538	77.25
Ohio	11,575,977	77.33
United States	320,098,094	78.69

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, [U.S. Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project](#). 2010-15

Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau puts Butler County at an 11.9% poverty rate in 2023. The poverty rate change from 2013 to 2023 decreased by -1.4%, compared to a national change of -3.3%. A total of 45,064 people live below the poverty level in Butler County. Compared to the state and nation, Butler County has a lower percentage of residents in poverty, however, the decrease in poverty over the last ten years was lower for the county than for the state and nation. Poverty is a persistent problem in Butler County.

It is estimated that 7.6% of all households live below the poverty level in Butler County, compared to the national average of 8.7%. Of the households in poverty, female householders make up 58.3%, compared to 7.8% and 33.9% of male householders and married couples, respectively.

When looking at demographics on race in Butler County, the proportion of each group living below the federal poverty level are as follows: Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 44.79%, American Indian/Alaska Native, 33.40%, African American, 16.53%, Asian, 15.02%, and White, 10.13%.

The 2023 poverty rates for the following ethnicities were: Hispanic/Latino, 20.86% and Not Hispanic/Latino, 11.07%.

26.7% of Butler County households have income of up to 200% of the federal poverty level, which is the income qualification for many of SELF's programs.

The National Community Action Partnership produced the following data and charts on income and poverty for Butler County, Ohio based on Census data.

Poverty - Population Below 100% FPL

Within the report area 11.72% or 44,346 individuals for whom poverty status is determined are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status.

Report Area	Total Population	Population in Poverty	Population in Poverty, Percent
Butler County, OH	378,278	44,346	11.72%
Ohio	11,478,861	1,519,610	13.24%
United States	324,567,147	40,390,045	12.44%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Ratio of Income To Poverty Level

	Number	Percent
Population for whom poverty status is determined	378,278	100.0%
Below 50% of poverty level	22,943	6.1%
50% to 99% of poverty level	21,403	5.7%
100% to 124% of poverty level	11,555	3.1%
125% to 149% of poverty level	13,376	3.5%
150% to 184% of poverty level	21,125	5.6%
185% to 199% of poverty level	10,167	2.7%
200% of poverty level or more	277,709	73.4%

Source: Ohio Department of Development, 2025 Edition, Butler County Profile

Poverty Rate Change

Poverty rate change in the report area from 2013 to 2023 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, the poverty rate for the area decreased by -1.4%, compared to a national change of -3.3%.

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2013	Poverty Rate 2013	Persons in Poverty 2023	Poverty Rate 2023	Change in Poverty Rate 2013-2023
Butler County, OH	47,855	13.3%	45,064	11.9%	-1.4%
Ohio	1,793,523	15.9%	1,518,116	13.2%	-2.7%
United States	48,810,868	15.8%	40,763,043	12.5%	-3.3%

Population in Poverty by Gender

Report Area	Male	Female	Male, Percent	Female, Percent
Butler County, OH	19,355	24,991	10.36%	13.06%
Ohio	670,286	849,324	11.87%	14.56%
United States	18,016,757	22,373,288	11.26%	13.60%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Population in Poverty by Ethnicity

Report Area	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
Butler County, OH	5,234	39,112	20.86%	11.07%
Ohio	113,785	1,405,825	21.71%	12.83%
United States	10,467,411	29,922,634	16.89%	11.39%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Population in Poverty by Race

Report Area	White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Butler County, OH	10.13%	16.53%	33.40%	15.02%	44.79%	24.05%	16.82%
Ohio	10.42%	26.93%	26.79%	11.47%	35.91%	23.60%	20.10%
United States	9.85%	21.28%	21.81%	9.93%	17.18%	18.24%	14.70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Family Poverty Rate by Family Type

Report Area	Poverty Rate All Types	Percent of Poverty Married Couples	Percent of Poverty Male Householder	Percent of Poverty Female Householder
Butler County, OH	7.6%	33.9%	7.8%	58.3%
Ohio	9.2%	29.1%	10.9%	60.1%
United States	8.7%	37.5%	11.1%	51.5%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2019-23.

Child Poverty Rate (ACS) Ages 0-17

Population and poverty estimates for children age 0-17 are shown for the report area. According to the American Community Survey 5-year data, an average of 13.1% percent of children lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. The poverty rate for children living in the report area is less than the national average of 16.3%.

Report Area	Ages 0-17 Total Population	Ages 0-17 In Poverty	Ages 0-17 Poverty Rate
Butler County, OH	90,484	11,868	13.1%
Ohio	2,566,266	461,410	18.0%
United States	72,472,636	11,829,878	16.3%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Children in Poverty by Ethnicity: Age 0 - 17

Report Area	Total Hispanic or Latino	Total Not Hispanic or Latino	Percent Hispanic or Latino	Percent Not Hispanic or Latino
Butler County, OH	2,491	9,377	24.42%	11.68%
Ohio	49,734	411,676	26.85%	17.29%
United States	4,180,720	7,649,158	22.26%	14.25%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Children in Poverty by Race: Age 0 - 17

Report Area	Non-Hispanic White	Black or African American	American Indian / Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race
Butler County, OH	5,908	1,607	2	360	55	874	1,904
Ohio	217,157	139,122	1,166	6,946	501	17,433	65,781
United States	3,485,516	2,945,781	207,029	375,774	35,256	1,470,871	2,097,833

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Seniors in Poverty

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Total Population	Ages 65 and Up In Poverty	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rate
Butler County, OH	58,404	5,013	8.6%
Ohio	2,031,330	193,326	9.5%
United States	54,579,391	5,654,531	10.4%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Employment

Current Unemployment

Report Area	Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Butler County, OH	200,742	189,552	11,190	5.6%
Ohio	6,038,424	5,707,766	330,658	5.5%
United States	172,871,863	164,954,771	7,917,091	4.6%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2025 - July.

Unemployment Change

Report Area	Unemployment July 2024	Unemployment July 2025	Unemployment Rate July 2024	Unemployment Rate July 2025	Rate Change
Butler County, OH	9,472	11,190	4.7%	5.6%	0.8%
Ohio	282,750	330,658	4.7%	5.5%	0.8%
United States	7,840,908	7,917,091	4.5%	4.6%	0.0%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2025 - July.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Cincinnati metropolitan area, May 2024

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage (\$)	
	United States	Cincinnati	United States	Cincinnati
Total, all occupations	100.0	100.0	32.66	30.78
Management	7.1	7.3	68.15	61.49
Business and financial operations	6.7	6.5	45.04	41.65
Computer and mathematical	3.4	2.8	56.16	49.05
Architecture and engineering	1.7	2.1	49.99	48.51
Life, physical, and social science	0.9	0.8	43.12	40.90
Community and social service	1.7	1.5	30.31	28.25
Legal	0.8	0.6	66.19	57.39
Educational instruction and library	5.8	5.4	31.69	28.69
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.4	1.2	37.04	28.70
Healthcare practitioners and technical	6.2	7.0	50.59	49.21
Healthcare support	4.8	3.6	19.06	19.29
Protective service	2.4	2.1	29.33	27.18
Food preparation and serving related	8.8	9.7	17.32	16.31
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	2.9	2.7	19.01	17.98
Personal care and service	2.0	1.9	18.95	17.55
Sales and related	8.7	8.3	26.00	25.36
Office and administrative support	11.8	12.0	24.12	23.42
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	(1)	20.06	19.90
Construction and extraction	4.1	3.4	30.73	30.21
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.9	29.63	29.63
Production	5.7	7.2	24.08	23.83
Transportation and material moving	8.9	10.1	23.44	22.97

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Commuter Travel Patterns

Report Area	Workers 16 and Up	Percent Drive Alone	Percent Carpool	Percent Public Transportation	Percent Bicycle or Walk	Percent Taxi or Other	Percent Work at Home
Butler County, OH	183,302	76.7%	8.3%	0.3%	2.1%	0.8%	11.8%
Ohio	5,591,912	76.6%	7.5%	1.1%	2.3%	1.1%	11.5%
United States	157,645,183	70.2%	8.5%	3.5%	2.9%	1.5%	13.5%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Education

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area, and helps schools and businesses to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering, and mathematics opportunities. Educational attainment is calculated for persons over 25 years old, and is an estimated average for the period from 2019 to 2023.

For the selected area, 20.8% have at least a college bachelor's degree, while 32.0% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school.

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associate's Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Butler County, OH	8.8%	32.0%	18.4%	8.2%	20.8%	11.7%
Ohio	8.4%	32.3%	19.4%	9.0%	19.0%	11.9%
United States	10.6%	26.2%	19.4%	8.8%	21.3%	13.7%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Access - Head Start

Head Start is a program designed to help children from birth to age five who come from families at or below poverty level. The program's goal is to help children become ready for kindergarten while also providing the needed requirements to thrive, including health care and food support.

This indicator reports the number and rate of Head Start program facilities per 10,000 children under age 5. Head Start facility data is acquired from the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) 2024 Head Start Locator. Population data is from the 2020 US Decennial Census. The report area has a total of 15 Head Start programs with a rate of 6.59 per 10,000 children under 5 years old.

Report Area	Children Under Age 5	Total Head Start Programs	Head Start Programs, Rate (Per 10,000 Children Under Age 5)
Butler County, OH	22,751	15	6.59
Ohio	666,434	848	12.72
United States	18,515,341	21,035	11.36

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, HRSA - Administration for Children and Families, 2025.

Adult Literacy

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC) breaks adult literacy into three different "Levels". Those reported as Level 1 are at risk for being able to understand printed material. Those at the upper end of Level 1 can read and understand the text well enough to be able to perform small task, but might have difficulty understanding or drawing inferences from multiple forms of text. Those at the lower end may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate.

The percentage at or below Level 1 for literacy in the report area is estimated at 16.4%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 13% and 19.7%.

Report Area	Population Ages 16-74	Total At or Below Level 1	At or Below Level 1	Total Lower Credible Interval	Lower Credible Interval	Total Upper Credible Interval	Upper Credible Interval
Butler County, OH	274,722	45,054	16.4%	35,714	13%	54,120	19.7%
Ohio	8,490,881	1,504,134	17.7%	1,188,005	14%	1,810,850	21.3%
United States	235,567,157	51,401,095	21.8%	42,569,858	18.1%	60,378,678	25.6%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*. 2017.

Those reported at Level 2 still struggle to perform text based informational tasks, but are considered to be nearing reading proficiency. People in this literacy level can usually be able to read printed words and digital print, as well as being able to relate and make inferences from multiple pieces of information that can be pulled from more than one document. Complex evaluation and inferencing may still be too difficult.

The percentage at or below Level 2 for literacy in the report area is estimated at 36%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 31.3% and 40.5%.

Report Area	Population Ages 16-74	Total At or Below Level 2	At or Below Level 2	Total Lower Credible Interval	Lower Credible Interval	Total Upper Credible Interval	Upper Credible Interval
Butler County, OH	274,722	98,900	36%	85,988	31.3%	111,262	40.5%
Ohio	8,490,881	3,102,025	36.5%	2,669,276	31.4%	3,525,211	41.5%
United States	235,567,157	76,178,529	32.3%	64,300,451	27.3%	88,084,541	37.4%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*. 2017.

Those reported at Level 3 still are proficient in reading. This includes being able to understand and work with multiple complex texts, while still being able to evaluate the reliability of sources. People in this level can infer complex ideas and sophisticated meanings from written documents and texts.

The percentage at or below Level 3 for literacy in the report area is estimated at 47.6%, with a 95% probability that the actual (true, unknown) percentage is between 43.2% and 52.3%.

Report Area	Population Ages 16-74	Total At or Below Level 3	At or Below Level 3	Total Lower Credible Interval	Lower Credible Interval	Total Upper Credible Interval	Upper Credible Interval
Butler County, OH	274,722	130,768	47.6%	118,680	43.2%	143,680	52.3%
Ohio	8,490,881	3,884,786	45.8%	3,480,227	41%	4,313,083	50.8%
United States	235,567,157	107,981,194	45.8%	96,513,724	41%	119,346,496	50.7%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *NCES - Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies*. 2017.

Housing

Households - Overview

This indicator reports the total number and percentage of households by composition (married couple family, nonfamily, etc.). According to the American Community Survey subject definitions, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption*. A non-family household is any household occupied by the householder alone, or by the householder and one or more unrelated individuals.

*Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.

Report Area	Total Households	Family Households	Family Households, Percent	Non-Family Households	Non-Family Households, Percent
Butler County, OH	145,232	97,819	67.35%	47,413	32.65%
Ohio	4,829,571	2,971,285	61.52%	1,858,286	38.48%
United States	127,482,865	82,220,165	64.50%	45,262,700	35.50%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Housing Units - Overview

The number of housing units within the report area in July of each year from 2015-2024 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 156,598 housing units in the report area in 2024, an increase of 6,285 (or 4.18%) since 2015 compared to a 3.15% increase statewide.

Report Area	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022	July 2023	July 2024
Butler County, OH	150,313	151,122	152,053	152,670	153,241	153,887	154,671	155,426	156,075	156,598
Ohio	10,347,892	10,372,014	10,402,030	10,434,250	10,465,738	10,492,552	10,538,408	10,585,698	10,633,876	10,673,880
United States	135,285,123	136,286,436	137,366,902	138,516,439	139,684,244	140,811,440	142,172,055	143,799,370	145,359,015	146,770,711

Data Source: US Census Bureau, US Census Population Estimates.

Housing Costs - Cost Burden (30%)

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 30% or more of total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels. Of the 145,232 total households in the report area, 33,298 or 22.93% of the population live in cost burdened households.

Report Area	Total Households	Cost-Burdened Households	Cost-Burdened Households, Percent
Butler County, OH	145,232	33,298	22.93%
Ohio	4,829,571	1,158,956	24.00%
United States	127,482,865	37,330,839	29.28%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Cost-Burdened Households by Tenure, Total

These data show the number of households that spend more than 30% of the household income on housing costs. In the report area, there were 33,298 cost burdened households according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2019-2023 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where household

housing costs and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Report Area	Cost-Burdened Households	Cost-Burdened Rental Households	Cost-Burdened Owner-Occupied Households w/ Mortgage	Cost-Burdened Owner-Occupied Households w/o Mortgage
Butler County, OH	33,298	18,731	12,286	4,254
Ohio	1,158,956	665,450	404,584	151,417
United States	37,330,839	20,909,407	13,886,916	4,391,728

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Cost-Burdened Households by Race, Percent

This indicator reports the percentage of cost-burdened households (i.e., those that spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs) by the householder's race alone, without considering respondents' ethnicity. The percentage values could be interpreted as, for example, "Of all occupied housing units with a white alone householder within the report area, the proportion whose housing costs exceed 30% of their household income in the past 12 months is (value)." Note that data are only reported for households where household housing costs, income earned, and race was identified in the 2019-23 American Community Survey.

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	American Indian or Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races
Butler County, OH	21.25%	33.59%	23.65%	34.00%	0.00%	30.80%	29.67%
Ohio	21.28%	38.93%	23.09%	37.71%	47.65%	31.57%	30.53%
United States	25.61%	41.10%	30.02%	30.74%	37.97%	40.56%	35.13%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Cost-Burdened Households by Hispanic Ethnicity, Percent

This indicator reports the percentage of households that spend more than 30% of their household income on housing costs by ethnicity alone during 2019-2023, according to the American Community Survey (ACS). Note that the data for this indicator are only reported for households where housing costs, income earned, and ethnicity were identified in the American Community Survey.

Within the report area, there were 1,715 cost-burdened households of Hispanic or Latino origin, representing 24.00% of the Hispanic or Latino households. There were 31,583 cost-burdened households of non-Hispanic or Latino origin in the report area, representing 22.87% of the total non-Hispanic households.

Report Area	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Hispanic or Latino, Percent	Not Hispanic or Latino, Percent
Butler County, OH	1,715	31,583	24.00%	22.87%
Ohio	51,438	1,107,518	31.29%	23.74%
United States	6,921,852	30,408,987	37.78%	27.86%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Housing Costs - Cost Burden, Severe (50%)

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are 50% or more total household income. This indicator provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for owners and renters. The information offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. The data also serve to aid in the development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Report Area	Total Households	Severely Burdened Households	Severely Burdened Households, Percent
Butler County, OH	145,232	15,067	10.37%
Ohio	4,829,571	537,077	11.12%
United States	127,482,865	17,661,218	13.85%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Severely Cost-Burdened Households by Tenure, Total

This data shows the number of households that spend more than 50% of the household income on housing costs. In the report area, there were 15,067 severely cost burdened households according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2019-2023 5-year estimates. The data for this indicator is only reported for households where household housing costs and income earned was identified in the American Community Survey.

Report Area	Severely Burdened Households	Severely Burdened Rental Households	Severely Burdened Owner-Occupied Households w/ Mortgage	Severely Burdened Owner-Occupied Households w/o Mortgage
Butler County, OH	15,067	9,730	4,144	1,784
Ohio	537,077	333,384	151,129	69,255
United States	17,661,218	10,516,877	5,576,596	2,107,768

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Housing Quality - Substandard Housing

This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions: 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities, 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities, 3) with 1 or more occupants per room, 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%, and 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%. Selected conditions provide information in assessing the quality of the housing inventory and its occupants. This data is used to easily identify homes where the quality of living and housing can be considered substandard. Of the 145,232 total occupied housing units in the report area, 35,765 or 24.63% have one or more substandard conditions.

Report Area	Total Occupied Housing Units	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions, Percent
Butler County, OH	145,232	35,765	24.63%
Ohio	4,829,571	1,236,557	25.60%
United States	127,482,865	40,765,129	31.98%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019-23.

Age of Housing Stock

Year Structure Built	Number	Percent
Total housing units	154,777	100.0%
Built 2020 or later	986	0.6%
Built 2010 to 2019	10,389	6.7%
Built 2000 to 2009	21,982	14.2%
Built 1990 to 1999	22,859	14.8%
Built 1980 to 1989	18,349	11.9%
Built 1970 to 1979	25,797	16.7%
Built 1960 to 1969	13,776	8.9%
Built 1950 to 1959	17,563	11.3%
Built 1940 to 1949	5,713	3.7%
Built 1939 or earlier	17,363	11.2%
Median year built	1979	

Evictions

This indicator reports information about formal evictions based on court records from 48 states and the District of Columbia, compiled by the Eviction Lab. The number of eviction filings within the report area is shown in below. The “filing rate” is the ratio of the number of evictions filed in an area over the number of renter-occupied homes in that area. For the year 2018, the Eviction Lab reports that, of 48,076 rental homes in the report area, there were 4,976 eviction filings, for an eviction filing rate of 10.4.

Report Area	Renter Occupied Households	Estimated Eviction Filings	Estimated Eviction Filing Rate
Butler County, OH	48,076	4,976	10.4
Ohio	3,444,639	212,720	6.2
United States	140,706,143	10,969,285	7.8

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: [Eviction Lab](#). 2018.

Food

Poverty - Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Price Lunch

Free or reduced price lunches are served to qualifying students in families with income between under 185 percent (reduced price) or under 130 percent (free lunch) of the US federal poverty threshold as part of the federal National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

Out of 59,856 total public school students in the report area, 12,429 were eligible for the free or reduced price lunch program in the latest report year. This represents 31.3% of public school students, which is lower than the state average of 34.5%.

Report Area	Total Students	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch	Students Eligible for Free or Reduced Price Lunch, Percent
Butler County, OH	59,856	12,429	31.3%
Ohio	1,679,311	387,084	34.5%
United States	46,791,755	24,677,523	53.5%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average. Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics, [NCES - Common Core of Data](#). 2022-2023.

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status (ACS)

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Total	Households Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Total	Households Not Receiving SNAP Percent	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Not Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Butler County, OH	13,776	9.49%	6,076	7,700	131,456	90.51%	10,483	120,973
Ohio	598,938	12.40%	303,075	295,863	4,230,633	87.60%	338,514	3,892,119
United States	15,004,950	11.77%	6,447,353	8,557,597	112,477,915	88.23%	9,432,695	103,045,220

Data Source: US Census Bureau, [American Community Survey](#). 2019-23.

Low Income and Low Food Access

Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) or 10 miles (rural) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the April 2021 [Food Access Research Atlas](#) dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity.

32.96% of the low-income population in the report area have low food access. The total low-income population in the report area with low food access is 34,715.

Report Area	Total Population	Low Income Population	Low Income Population with Low Food Access	Percent Low Income Population with Low Food Access
Butler County, OH	368,130	105,326	34,715	32.96%
Ohio	11,536,504	3,683,679	792,535	21.51%
United States	308,745,538	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#). 2019.

SNAP Authorized Food Stores

Report Area	Total Population (2023)	Total SNAP-Authorized Retailers	SNAP-Authorized Retailers, Rate per 10,000 Population
Butler County, OH	389,910	302	7.75
Ohio	11,780,046	9,992	8.48
United States	335,409,240	264,826	7.89

Note: This indicator is compared to the state average.
Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, [USDA - SNAP Retailer Locator](#). Additional data analysis by CARES. 2025.

Food Environment - Food Desert Census Tracts

This indicator reports the number of neighborhoods in the report area that are within food deserts. The USDA Food Access Research Atlas defines a food desert as any neighborhood that lacks healthy food sources due to income level, distance to supermarkets, or vehicle access. The report area has a population of 68,471 living in food deserts and a total of 19 census tracts classified as food deserts by the USDA.

Report Area	Total Population (2010)	Food Desert Census Tracts	Other Census Tracts	Food Desert Population	Other Population
Butler County, OH	368,130	19	61	68,471	299,659
Ohio	11,536,504	421	2,522	1,504,341	10,032,163
United States	308,745,538	9,293	63,238	39,074,974	269,670,564

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, [USDA - Food Access Research Atlas](#). 2019.

Community Needs Assessment

SELF's Community Needs Assessment is based upon the previous demographic and other data – the quantitative -- and the following client focus group and surveys – the qualitative. The combination of the two is a more definitive way for SELF to determine its programming foci.

Surveys and Focus Groups

2024 Client Survey

A total of 153 clients, who have received assistance or attended a class, responded to a survey request to answer questions about the service they received from SELF and the needs of their household.

When asked what the greatest needs are in their household, the top three answers were: utility payment assistance (33%), rent payment assistance (14%), and food (11%). Having housing that is affordable (9%), home repairs (8%), and an affordable personal vehicle or personal vehicle repair (8%) were the next three highest responses.

Collaborative Client Survey – December 2024

SELF joined with several other government and nonprofit entities to produce a survey for low-income individuals referred by many different organizations. The key engaged groups that produced the survey included SELF, the Butler County Educational Service Center (BCESC), which operates Head Start and Early Head Start in Butler and Preble Counties, BCESC Success Program and the Family and Children First Council, the public health departments in Middletown, Hamilton and Butler County, the Butler County Department of Job and Family Services, and YWCA.

A total of 454 surveys were completed by low-income individuals. The top 5 themes by frequency of mentions were:

1. **Housing & Basic Needs (36 mentions)**- The most prominent concern among residents centers around affordable housing and meeting basic needs. Comments frequently mentioned rising costs of living, housing affordability, and the need for better housing assistance programs. Residents expressed particular concern about rental costs and housing accessibility.
2. **Employment & Financial Support (21 mentions)**- Many comments highlighted the interconnected challenges of employment and financial stability. Residents discussed barriers to maintaining steady employment, including childcare constraints and the need for better-paying job opportunities. Several comments also addressed the need for financial assistance programs and support for low-income families.
3. **Service Accessibility (19 mentions)**- A significant number of comments focused on the accessibility of existing services. Residents pointed out challenges in accessing various social services, including complicated application processes, limited service hours, and difficulties in reaching service locations. There were calls for more streamlined access to assistance programs.
4. **Transportation (15 mentions)**- Transportation emerged as a critical barrier to accessing both services and employment opportunities. Residents highlighted the need for better public

transportation options and support for reliable transportation to reach jobs, medical appointments, and social services.

5. Healthcare Access (15 mentions)- Healthcare accessibility and affordability were frequently mentioned concerns. Comments highlighted challenges with medical debt, the need for better access to mental health services, and difficulties accessing affordable medications for chronic conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure.

Feedback suggests that many of these challenges are interconnected with issues in one area (such as transportation or childcare) directly impacting residents' ability to maintain employment and access other essential services. Residents emphasized the need for more integrated and accessible support systems that address multiple challenges simultaneously.

Client Focus Group - September 2025

The Client Advisory Committee met on September 17, 2025. There were 5 clients and 3 staff present. Participants were asked questions regarding the level of satisfaction with services and programs provided by SELF. Participants shared that they were satisfied with the programs and services provided by SELF.

Participants were also asked what their biggest challenges were for success in moving out of poverty. Participants shared that some of the biggest challenges were access to transportation, housing, yardwork, and childcare.

They were also asked how SELF could improve and better support them. Participants shared that the best way for SELF to improve and better support them and the community was to improve exposure in the community. They shared ideas such as impact videos, increased social media exposure, and posters in locations people in poverty frequent. They gave examples such as community centers, laundry mats, discount grocery stores, shelters, Primary Health Solutions, hospital ER's, urgent care facilities, pawn shops, and thrift stores. They also suggested programs to support better nutrition. Ideas of additional ways to support the community included a monthly cooking club or information on how to shop for healthier foods on a limited budget as well as a way for individuals to have yard work done on a regular basis by volunteers.

Other Assessments

In 2023, Butler County General Health District, City of Hamilton Health Department, and City of Middletown Health Department conducted a comprehensive Community Health Assessment (CHA), and the results were used to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) that was adopted in May 2024. The organizations used a survey with 907 responses to gather data.

From the survey, the most important factors identified for a healthy community were:

1. Access to health care
2. Low crime/safe neighborhoods
3. Affordable housing

4. Access to mental health and substance use treatment
5. Well-paying jobs
6. Access to food

Other Assessments

According to the 2020-2025 City of Middletown Consolidated Plan, the principal needs in the area are:

1. housing rehabilitation for both owner and renter units
2. rental assistance for extremely low-income households threatened with homelessness
3. public improvements to improve/revitalize neighborhoods
4. demolition of dilapidated, unsafe, or abandoned properties
5. small business assistance (loans, facades, training)
6. job training and education
7. assisting the homeless

The following services were noted as valuable, if not necessary:

1. livable wage employment
2. affordable childcare
3. affordable housing
4. transportation
5. access to healthcare
6. life skills training
7. additional education and/or training, including GED programs, and English as a Second Language

Key Informant Interviews

On September 29, 2025, President/CEO of the Greater Hamilton Chamber of Commerce Dan Bates was interviewed, representing the **private sector**. Four key questions were asked of Mr. Bates. Following is a paraphrased summary of that interview.

What do you believe is the greatest need in the Hamilton area?

Housing. Costs have increased, and housing continues to be an issue. There isn't enough market rate housing, which in turn effects affordable housing available.

What do you believe is the greatest need for low-income families in Hamilton?

Housing. Also, looking at the real paths for people in poverty to get the steps up they need to be self-sustaining and how to make the paths out of poverty clear and attainable. Looking at what additional training, education, and partnerships are needed.

What is the greatest need for entrepreneurs and small business owners?

Consistency. Hamilton has grown by leaps and bounds. We need outside traffic to support the businesses, but out of town traffic ebbs and flows and makes it hard for businesses to plan. Current Hamilton residents do a great job supporting local business; the challenge is that we need additional residents in Hamilton who would in turn provide additional support to the local businesses. There's no community I know of where the businesses work together as much as they do in Hamilton. If you work with your competitor and build a better traffic flow, you're both going to win.

How can SELF better support lower income entrepreneurs?

Looking into more partnerships between the chamber and the business community and SELF's programs. Connecting programs at SELF to the business world. There could be opportunities for engaging entrepreneurs in networking and training on networking skills. Relationships are everything. Unless you are effective in building relationships, your road to building a business is much harder.

On September 30, 2025, Pastor Aaron Simpson of the Freedom House, Hamilton, was interviewed, representing the **faith-based sector**. Following is a paraphrased summary of that interview.

What do you believe is the greatest need in the Hamilton and Butler County area?

Unification around outcomes for individuals instead of identity. There are silos of service that could be more unified around the essentials. Unification between all levels of service and clarity on what we want to do as a community.

What do you believe is the greatest need for low-income families in Hamilton?

Care beyond just the immediate crisis, beyond the tyranny of the moment. Real community and support that extends to all of life. Intentional, well-informed, strategic approaches to care for the poor and marginalized.

What can SELF do better to serve low-income individuals and families?

Advocate at more of a higher level for better conditions and better outcomes for the community.

What can SELF do to partner more with the faith community?

Attend the local area pastors meeting to present on programs and share opportunities to volunteer and engage with new groups. Attend outreach events, share information, and ask for input.

Summary of Needs Assessment

Based on data collected across community needs assessments, SELF is addressing the following big issues affecting Butler County's low-income population: home repairs/housing, unemployment/underemployment, and lack of educational attainment and assets (home ownership, education, business) with which to sustain themselves.

Housing

According to the US Census, the median age of housing stock in Butler County is 46 years. Older housing often indicates a greater need for home repairs and inefficient heating and appliances.

More than 1 in 5 households in Butler County have housing costs that are 30% or more of their total household income. Of the 145,232 total households, 33,298 or 22.93% of the population live in cost burdened households.

Housing quality in the county is measured by looking at four key conditions: incomplete kitchen facilities, incomplete plumbing facilities, more than 1 occupant per room, and/or housing cost burden greater than 30%. Nearly one quarter (24.63%) of occupied housing units measured were found to have at least one substandard condition.

Availability of affordable housing was highlighted in nearly all the surveys and focus groups conducted. Housing rehabilitation and repairs were also mentioned when discussing efforts to improve the community.

With older homes, high housing cost burdens, and substandard conditions needing addressed, SELF's home repair efforts are critical to ensure low-income individuals in Butler County receive the assistance they need to stay safely in their homes.

Unemployment/Underemployment/Self-employment

The unemployment rate in Butler County in July 2025 was 5.6%, which is a 2.1% increase from August 2023.

The 2025 Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies Self-sufficiency calculator states that an hourly wage of \$34.22 is needed for an adult and two school age kids to be self-sufficient, significantly more than most employers offer at the starting level. The average pay for employees in the Cincinnati Metropolitan area is \$30.78, however, the highest employment sectors in the area (office and administrative, transportation and material moving, and food preparation and serving) have average wages of \$16.31 to \$23.42.

Through surveys and community assessments, we can see that employment is a top concern for individuals in Butler County. People mentioned struggles with maintaining steady employment due to barriers such as childcare constraints. The need for better paying jobs was mentioned multiple times along with job training.

SELF's skill development programs work to get individuals into stable jobs, prepare them to build financially stable futures, and even start their own business to provide additional income.

Lack of Educational Attainment and Stable Assets

Three major causes of or correlations to household economic instability are: a failure to build assets through a sustained savings program; inadequate means of generating income because of a lack of marketable skills or an inability to establish viable self-employment; and a lack of equity-generating homeownership. Both nationally and locally, there is a great need for programs that address these problems and help citizens become more economically self-sufficient.

The American Community Survey found that 8.8% of the total Butler County population over the age of 25 does not have a high school diploma, and 32% stopped their formal educational attainment after high school.

The higher one's level of education, the greater one's earnings as referenced by the 2020-2025 City of Middletown Consolidated Plan. The Median Income figure for those with less than a high school diploma is below the current poverty level. Unfortunately, in Middletown the educational attainment level of many residents is low, almost 4,000 persons in the working age cohorts (18 - 65) do not have a high school diploma and only 2,356 persons in these cohorts have a bachelor's degree.

The Middletown Consolidated Plan mentions the need for job and life skills training and education programs to help the community move forward. A key interview noted the need for clear paths of training and education for individuals to be able to succeed.

With increased housing costs and a need for higher wages mentioned frequently, the education provided through SELF works to address the issues at hand. With increased knowledge of finances, saving, job skills, and asset building, individuals can achieve a more stable financial future.

How SELF Meets the Needs of Butler County's Low-Income Residents

Based on continuing needs identified by clients, Census data and other assessments, SELF works with residents who are unemployed, underemployed, interested in additional education, building assets and/or maintaining their greatest asset, their home. To meet those needs, SELF will continue to offer the following programs/services:

Build-Up Academy teaches young adults construction skills and connects them to apprenticeships, jobs and advanced training programs. Employment training and hands-on work are included. An industry recognized credential is awarded to graduates.

Utilizing best practices, JOBS NOW! is a highly individualized program designed to provide residents with the skills and support they need to meet goals they choose. Typical goals include finding a job, finding a better job, finishing a degree or completing a certification program.

"Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' By World" focuses on mental models that participants in poverty develop that lead to their success through an individualized Plan for Prosperity. Getting Ahead is based on the Bridges Out of Poverty work of Dr. Ruby Payne.

Through its Individual Development Account program, SELF helps clients learn how to save and plan for their futures. The IDA program provides matched savings which are released when goals are reached, and financial literacy and other instruction are complete. IDA clients can save for a first home purchase, post-secondary education, or business startup.

The Butler County Microenterprise and Microloan Program, a partnership with Neighborhood Housing Services of Hamilton, provides intensive training in starting a business to begin a life of self-employment. Clients complete their coursework with a rigorously crafted business plan and budget which they are ready to present to a loan committee.

SELF helps low-income residents with transportation on a limited basis. Active program participants are eligible for emergency or temporary job or job training transportation. Additionally, SELF is an active part of the Transit Alliance of Butler County which addresses the widespread and difficult problem of transportation especially for low-to-moderate income families.

SELF's Money Management program offers group sessions and one-on-one financial coaching to help individuals create and maintain a budget, manage debt and credit wisely, and build a savings. Participants are equipped with the tools needed to increase stability and prosperity for the future.

As part of SELF's Neighbors Who Care: Home Repair Program, home repairs are provided for owner-occupied homeowners who lack the financial and physical means to complete the repairs themselves. SELF's approach is to organize local and national volunteer groups, under proper supervision, to complete/perform the repairs.

Throughout its history, SELF has helped thousands of low-income residents lift themselves out of poverty. SELF is committed to providing quality, best practice programming for its community, working in collaboration with other agencies, local governments and private volunteers. This work will re-affirm SELF's mission "to enhance the quality of life for county residents by impacting the causes of poverty and empowering individuals to achieve, sustain and advocate self-sufficiency."

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