



2023
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Butler County
*Elderly Services
Program*



Welcome

The Butler County Elderly Services Program (ESP), and the county tax levy that supports it, helped more than 4,200 of our older neighbors, friends and loved ones remain safe and independent in their homes in 2023.

Since 2020, the program has been in high demand. And while enrollment numbers dipped slightly in 2022 as people emerged from the shadow of the pandemic, 2023 was a year of growth — for both enrollment and expansion of services.

In 2023, thanks to Healthy Aging funds distributed by the state and a commitment on the part of our county commissioners to serve the unmet needs of older adults, the FastTrack Home pilot program expanded to include the full array of ESP services. FastTrack Home provides temporary support to older adults as they are returning home from a hospital or nursing home stay. The program is proven to decrease costly and traumatic hospital readmissions. It is also helping us serve more older adults in our county: 149 in 2023.

The Healthy Aging funding is having an impact in other ways. Council on Aging (COA), the Area Agency on Aging for southwestern Ohio and ESP's administrator, provided recommendations to this advisory council and county commissioners on how to utilize the county's allocation of Ohio's Healthy Aging Grants. The funding will save local tax dollars while bringing important new services to address gaps and unmet needs for older adults in the county, including assistance with utility bills, emergency housing assistance, and new opportunities for ESP clients to hire their own caregivers.

As a member of this advisory council, I understand the important role partnerships play in meeting

the needs of older adults. During the summer, COA made the difficult decision to terminate its contracts with Central Connections — one of the largest service providers in our county. While this was a challenging time, it was refreshing to witness the commitment and spirit of partnership with which other service providers, including Community First Solutions, Meals on Wheels of Butler County, LifeSpan and The Fleet, stepped in to serve impacted older adults.

As we look to the future, we know demand for ESP will continue to rise. Working together, this advisory council and COA have already put steps in motion to keep ESP within budget while serving as many older adults as possible. This includes a new managed enrollment process that focuses the program's resources on individuals most at risk for nursing home placement. However, ESP has been living with the same revenue for nearly 20 years. As a result, we'll be making recommendations to county commissioners about the future of the program and the levy that funds it. Our goal is to ensure the sustainability of this program well into the future.

I hope you'll take a few moments to review our 2023 Annual Report. You'll learn more about this program and its impact on our county and the older adults it serves. Thank you.



Jennifer Roth
Chair, Butler County
Elderly Services Program
Advisory Council

ESP is a Community Partnership

Butler County Commissioners

Cindy Carpenter, President; Donald L. Dixon, Vice President;
T.C. Rogers, Member



Butler County Elderly Services Program Advisory Council

Jennifer Roth, President; Michael Berding; Victoria Cheng; Shawn Cowan; Jennifer Heston-Mullins; Kevin Kurpieski; Laura Lacy; Emily Liechty; Sherry Lind; John McCarthy; Sherrill Swann; Nancy Williams



Administered by Council on Aging

4601 Malsbary Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242
(513) 721-1025, (800) 252-0155 www.help4seniors.org



Intake and Care Management by LifeSpan Community First Solutions

1900 Fairgrove Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 868-9281, (800) 215-5305 www.community-first.org





2023

Client Stats

Butler County ESP clients are caught in the middle: with income too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to pay for private in-home care. They need help with basic activities like personal care and transportation. Between raising a family and going to work, family members help as much as they can, but ESP fills in gaps in care so our older neighbors and loved ones can continue to live independently in their homes and communities. ESP is a program that benefits our entire community.

4,224 Clients Served



69%
FEMALE



31%
MALE



56%
LIVE ALONE



\$354
MONTHLY
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES



84%
AGE 70+ (18 100+)



\$2,001
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME



945
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE PROGRAM



Success Stories

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/bcesp2023

ESP helps Middletown man adapt to major life changes

Sometimes we decide to make changes in our life. And sometimes, life decides for us. Changes certainly happened to Leamul. Through necessity, Leamul, 61, had to make big changes in his life. When those changes got the better of him, the Butler County Elderly Services Program (ESP) helped him through.



Butler County agencies step in to fill gaps following Central Connections contract termination

In July, Council on Aging made the difficult decision to terminate its contracts with Central Connections. Located in Middletown, Central Connections provided services including congregate and home-delivered meals, transportation and other supportive services to more than 1,300 older adults, most of whom live in Butler County. Other provider agencies – including several in Butler County – stepped in to ensure impacted older adults did not go without services.



Successful library-based congregate meal program adds new locations

In 2022, Council on Aging began offering congregate meals at the West Chester branch of the MidPointe Library System. The weekly meal helped fill a gap left after the closure of an area senior center. The meal proved to be so popular that COA and MidPointe decided to expand the meal program to two additional library locations: Trenton and Monroe.



Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program continues to grow in Butler County

During the pandemic, Council on Aging worked with a group of Butler County community members, farmers and the Ohio Department of Aging to secure a \$180,000 grant to bring this popular program to the region. In Butler County, enrollment in the program has increased 147% since 2020, with 535 older adults enrolled in 2023. The program provides \$50 in coupons to eligible, low-income older adults for use at participating farmers' markets and roadside stands.



Expenses + Revenue

How tax dollars are spent

ESP would not exist without the generous support of voters. A county tax levy in place since 1996 provides 90% of ESP's funding. The most recent tax levy was approved by 77% of voters in 2020. The 1.3-mill levy costs property owners \$39.81 per \$100,000 of property valuation annually. COA's goal is to ensure the highest quality services at the lowest cost in order to serve as many people as possible with the tax dollars available.

As the Area Agency on Aging for southwestern Ohio, including Butler County, COA leverages state and federal funding to cover 7% of ESP expenses. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client co-payments.

Revenue

Federal and State (via Council on Aging)	\$1,035,935
Client Donations and Co-payments	\$344,218
Butler County Elderly Services Levy	\$12,924,666
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,304,819

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	4,128	37,428 months	\$2,588,934
Home-Delivered Meals	2,370	419,379 meals	\$4,553,710
Electronic Monitoring Systems	2,286	26,364 months	\$440,377
Home Care Assistance	946	85,587 hours	\$2,254,427
Transportation	496	11,977 one-way trips	\$628,919
Home Medical Equipment	488	1,004 items	\$134,416
Independent Living Assistance*	363	4,395 hours	\$237,999
Consumer-Directed Care	324	70,768 hours	\$1,359,099
Minor Home Repairs	305	361 repairs	\$506,817
Behavioral Health (Uplift)^	220	N/A	N/A
FastTrack Home Care Management**	149	523 months	\$118,744
Environmental Services***	58	205 jobs	\$111,971
Adult Day Services	36	2,070 days	\$184,751
Adult Day Transportation	14	1,884 one-way trips	\$47,347
Laundry Service	13	115 jobs	\$12,214
Kinship Meals**	7	1,230 meals	\$13,659
Overnight Respite**	5	45 nights	\$11,830
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$935,829
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$308,009
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$14,304,819

Additional Expenses

Butler County Commissioners distributed funds from the senior services levy to the following organizations: Butler County Job and Family Services Adult Protective Services Unit, \$300,000; Butler County Prosecutor's Office for fraud prevention, \$182,608.

^Expenses not shown because 2023 services were billed and paid in 2024.

*Help with benefit applications and organizing personal and household records.

**Service made possible by Federal Older Americans Act funding drawn down by Council on Aging. Levy dollars were not used for this service and total expenses exclude this amount.

***Pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal.

What is ESP?

The Elderly Services Program helps eligible county residents age 60 and older remain safe and independent in their homes by providing help with certain activities of daily living (bathing, cleaning, cooking, transportation and more), filling gaps in care that may already be provided by family caregivers.

ESP offers flexible care to meet clients' changing needs. Eligibility and care needs are determined during an in-home assessment by a professional care manager who coordinates and monitors clients' care. Income is not an eligibility factor for ESP, but some clients have a co-payment based on their income.

The program is operated by Council on Aging (COA) via a contract with Butler County Commissioners, who appoint a board to advise on program needs and policies. Provider agencies deliver ESP services under a contract with COA. ESP is a compassionate and cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

Cost to Taxpayers

\$384

Monthly costs for
ESP services

VS

\$6,000+

Monthly costs for
nursing home care

What is COA's Role in ESP?

COA's responsibilities for ESP in Butler County include program development, provider management, data analysis and reporting; financial services and oversight; information technology; quality improvement; and community engagement. As a state-designated Area Agency on Aging, COA provided these additional services in 2023:

72,006

requests for information and referral fulfilled

2,177

individuals throughout COA's service area received support to transition from one care setting to another

2,223

Butler County residents received home- and community-based services through Medicaid-funded programs

\$1.6 million

in Title III funding allocated to local organizations for congregate meals, legal assistance, wellness education, caregiver support, transportation and other supportive services

Butler County ESP services are funded by a special tax levy. ESP does not supplant care provided by families but rather secures the necessary additional care the family is unable to provide.

ESP expects families to take responsibility to care for family members to the fullest extent possible. ESP does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion (creed), sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, national or ethnic origin (ancestry), marital status or disability.