DATE: December 5, 2025
TO: Board of Health Members
FROM: Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN-Secretary
SUBJECT: Agenda for December 9, 2025

City of Middletown Board of Health & Environment will meet in regular session **December 9, 2025** at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C at the City Building with the following agenda. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call 513-425-1818.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

CITIZEN COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2025
(motion and approval)

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT- August & September 2025

NEW BUSINESS

1. Travel Authorizations-None
2. Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-05-Pay & Benefits-by emergency (motion to adopt)
3. Approval of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-06-Health Department Budget-by emergency (motion to adopt)
4. Review of 2026 Board of Health Meeting Dates
5. Review of Health Commissioner Job Description

REPORTS

Health Commissioner-Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Medical Director-Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Director of Nursing-Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Environmental Health Director-Carla Ealy, BS, REHS

BOARD MEMBER OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for January at 7:30AM.

It is the policy of City of Middletown to make all public hearings and meetings accessible to all persons, in accordance with state and/or federal laws. If you have a disability which requires accommodation in order for you to attend and/or participate in this meeting, please contact us at 513-425-1818 at least forty-eight hours prior to the time of the meeting to advise the need for accommodation, and reasonable efforts shall be made to provide the same.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes
November 11, 2025

The City of Middletown Board of Health met in regular session at 7:30 AM on November 11, 2025.

Members Present
Mayor, Elizabeth Slamka
Ruth Lolli
Jeff Bonnell
Amy Sibcy
Emily Miller, BSN, RN
Dr. Scott Zollett, MD
Tiffani Baggett

Health Department Staff Present
Jackie Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Carla Ealy, BS, REHS
Dr. Paul Jennewine, MD
Chandra Corbin, BSN, RN
Amanda McDonald, Vital Statistics Registrar

Absent and Excused
Joseph Richmond, MBA

ROLL CALL
Mr. Richmond was absent from the November Board of Health meeting.
Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to excuse Mr. Richmond from the Board of Health meeting.
Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

CITIZEN COMMENTS
None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –October 2025
Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the October Board of Health minutes.
Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

RECEIVE AND FILE FINANCIAL REPORT
Ms. Phillips Carter stated that due to the cybersecurity incident, no updated financial reports are available. The finance department has revenue and expenditures entered through July 31st, which was provided to the BOH at the August meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Travel Authorizations-None.

Third & Final Reading of MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03- HSTS & Private Water Fees by title only

An ordinance amending the fees charged by the Middletown Board of Health as authorized by the Ohio Administrative Code and Ohio Revised Code in O.A.C. 3701-28 and R.C. 3701.344 for private water systems, and O.A.C. 3701-29 and R.C. 3718.06 for sewage treatment systems.

Motion: Dr. Zollett moved, seconded by Ms. Miller to read MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03 by title only.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to adopt MBHE Ordinance No. 2025-03.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

Approval of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Contract

Ms. Corbin explained that this is an addendum added to the previously approved PHEP contract. The addendum allows for additional funds to be released to CMHD and also requires that additional deliverables be completed by CMHD.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Contract.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

Review of ODH Immunization Initiative Agreement

This agreement allows the health department to order vaccines for adults as well as make emergency requests for vaccines in time of need. The agreement be effective until September 30, 2030.

Motion: Ms. Miller moved, seconded by Ms. Lolli to approve the Immunization Initiative Agreement.

Roll call vote: Yes-6 (Lolli, Bonnell, Sibcy, Miller, Zollett, Baggett). No-). **Motion Passed.**

REPORTS

Health Commissioner

Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the personnel committee has been holding meetings discussing the Health Commissioner succession plan. A timeline and Health Commissioner job description will be provided at the next Board of Health meeting. The Health Commissioner job position will be posted in January in advance of Ms. Phillip Carter's retirement.

Ms. Phillips Carter noted that it was Veteran's Day and thanked all that have served and are serving. Ms. Phillips Carter stated that there will be a luncheon honoring veterans at American Legion (on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2025).

Medical Director

Dr. Jennewine reported the October communicable disease case numbers.

C. auris	1
COVID-19	91
Chlamydia infection	23
Gonococcal Infection	5
Hepatitis C	2
Lyme Disease	1
Pertussis	2
Streptococcal Pneumoniae-invasive	1
Streptococcal-Group B-in newborn	1
Syphilis	3

Director of Nursing

Ms. Corbin informed the Board that we are in week fourteen of the cybersecurity incident. At this time, we do not know when it will officially be over. CMHD had its first After Action Report meeting discussing what went right and what could have been improved.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that additional deliverables were added to the PHEP contract with the addendum. One of which will be a tabletop exercise held on December 5th focusing on bioterrorism.

Ms. Corbin informed the board that CBI (City Building Institute) has placed a student intern with Ms. Corbin once a week through November and then four times a week in December. Ms. Corbin will be inviting the student intern to attend the BOH meeting in December.

Ms. Corbin informed board members that flu vaccinations are available upon request.

Environmental Director

Ms. Ealy informed the Board that no plan reviews were received in October. CMHD processed one change of ownership and issued a food license to the new license holder of Wow Chicken (previously JJ's Burgers & Wings). CMHD also licensed five temporary food vendors in October (all five were for Nightmare Manor).

Ms. Ealy informed the board that CMHD is looking very much forward to returning to HealthSpace after six months of Accela. Ms. Ealy stated that she is currently working with HealthSpace to provide information to transition back to the software. Ms. Ealy thanked the board for approving the contract to move back to HealthSpace.

Ms. Ealy informed the board that EH staff continue to complete septic inspections. There are 10 inspections left our of the 485 inspections scheduled this year. Ms. Ealy stated during inspections that a potential septic system

failure had been identified, and that one home was discharging gray water through a pipe onto the ground surface instead of directing it into the septic system. Orders were issued to both homeowners.
Ms. Ealy stated that WPCLF information is being mailed with each septic inspection report to homeowners, notifying them of funds available to help offset the cost of septic system repairs. Ms. Ealy has already completed the 2026 application for the WPCF Grant. Ms. Ealy noted that we have until August of 2026 to use 2025 WPCLF funds.

Board Member Open Discussion
Mayor Slamka inquired about the timeline for finding Ms. Phillip Carter's replacement.
Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the job position will be posted January 13th and will remain posted for one month.
Ms. Ealy and Ms. Phillips Carter will review all applications and select the top ten for the board to interview.
Ms. Phillips Carter stated that the hope is to announce the top candidate in May.
Mayor Slamka commended Mr. Bonnell and Ms. Lolli for their work with the Veteran's Luncheon. Hospice of Middletown sponsors this luncheon and it was noted that there were 260 in attendance. Challenge coins were given to all veterans and school-age children wrote letters of appreciation. Mayor Slamka noted that it was a beautiful event.
Ms. Lolli stated that CBI had hosted a Turkey Trot along the river with approximately 150 in attendance. Ms. Lolli noted that it was a great event for a great cause, raising money for CBI. The turkey Trot t-shirt was designed by a local sixth grader.
Ms. Phillips Carter noted that a list of local food sources (through Shared Harvest) has been posted to the health department's website. Ms. Phillips Carter encouraged board members to spread the word to anyone looking to assist with food shortages to reach out to Deana Shores of Middletown Connect.
Ms. Phillips Carter informed the board that Shalom will be offering shelter to the unhoused from January-March. There is ongoing discussion about possible shelters that may be needed before January in the case of extreme weather.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 8:14AM. The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2025 at 7:30AM in Conference Room 2C.

Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN
Secretary

Elizabeth Slamka, President
City of Middletown Board of Health

_____ _____

City of Middletown Health Department
November 2025 Financial Recap

Recap of Revenue Recorded by CMHD *(finance reports still unavailable)*

Cyber Event 8/17/2025

- **August 2025**
  - Vital Stats $6,777.34 *(607 certificates sold)- No online services available*
  - Environmental $1,692.40
- **September 2025**
  - Vital Stats $6,784.48 *(602 certificates sold- No online services available*
  - Environmental $1,547.00
- **October 2025**
  - Vital Stats $7,033.42 *(627 certificates sold)- No online services available*
  - Environmental $3,746.00
- **November 2025**
  - Vital Stats $5,894.70 *(538 certificates sold)- No online services available*
  - Environmental $3,995.00

The Health Department YTD remains up in revenue despite the cyber event, closures/partial services being available and inability to receive online orders or provide expedited shipping of certificates. The Vital Stats Department is up 5% through November and the Environmental Department is up 11%.

Indigents Services

- $17,050 spent YTD
- 22 Applications Processed

Funding/Grants

- Workforce Development (WF-23) Active through 11/30/2027 - $495,000 *(Target $100K/Yr.)*
  - $10K must be spent on Equity specific training-the has been completed
  - $50K was awarded for Accreditation efforts
  - $205,577.34 has been deposited to date
  - $100K target for 2025 has been met
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) 7/1/25-6/30/25 - $23,284.55
  - New contract was approved and executed on November 11th
  - $3,667.36 deposited YTD
- Allotrac Medicaid Billing (MAC) 1/01/2025-12/31/2025
  - Yearly payments are submitted and awarded quarterly
  - $74,107.37 deposited YTD
- Smoking Enforcement/Smoke Free Ohio
  - $2,675.00 deposited YTD
- State Health Subsidy Reimbursements & Vital Statistics Reimbursements
  - State Subsidy OAC 3701-36 - $9,329.20 deposited
  - State Subsidy Accreditation OAC 3701.36 - $19,082.63 deposited
  - Vital Statistics Reimbursement - $3,718.75 deposited

City of Middletown
Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200
Account Access Group: N/A
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 8/31/2025

Include Inactive Accounts: No
Include Pre-Encumbrances: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228	HEALTH FUND					Target Percent:	66.67%	
Health Admin								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	$670,630.00	$50,858.68	$424,302.21	$246,327.79	$0.00	$246,327.79	63.27%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	$93,888.00	$0.00	$48,746.59	$45,141.41	$19.97	$45,121.44	51.94%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	$26,825.00	$0.00	$1,280.46	$25,544.54	$25,544.54	$0.00	100.00%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	$90,018.00	$8,349.69	$61,708.44	$28,309.56	$0.00	$28,309.56	68.55%
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	$9,724.00	$707.05	$5,482.37	$4,241.63	$0.00	$4,241.63	56.38%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	$1,825.00	$0.00	$1,064.70	$760.30	$152.10	$608.20	66.67%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	$892,910.00	$59,915.42	$542,584.77	$350,325.23	$25,716.61	$324,608.62	63.65%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	$4,000.00	$0.00	$612.85	$3,387.15	$0.00	$3,387.15	15.32%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	$3,000.00	$0.00	$1,543.80	$1,456.20	$0.00	$1,456.20	51.46%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	$5,640.00	$40.94	$2,277.52	$3,362.48	$0.00	$3,362.48	40.38%
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	$3,500.00	$0.00	$1,210.52	$2,289.48	$0.00	$2,289.48	34.59%
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	$41,085.00	$1,140.21	$11,555.37	$29,529.63	$0.00	$29,529.63	28.13%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	$32,699.95	$0.00	$1,755.36	$30,944.59	$12,144.95	$18,799.64	42.51%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52483	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TRE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	$2,000.00	$0.00	$330.00	$1,670.00	$0.00	$1,670.00	16.50%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	$8,000.00	$0.00	$2,525.15	$5,474.85	$0.00	$5,474.85	31.56%
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	$11,855.00	$5,880.00	$9,949.50	$1,905.50	$0.00	$1,905.50	83.93%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	$1,500.00	$0.00	$361.63	$1,138.37	$0.00	$1,138.37	24.11%
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 8/31/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
	Contractual Services Totals:	$113,279.95	$7,061.15	$32,121.70	$81,158.25	$12,144.95	$69,013.30	39.08%
Commodities								
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	$2,500.00	$0.00	$1,213.25	$1,286.75	$0.00	$1,286.75	48.53%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	$200.00	$0.00	$28.24	$171.76	$0.00	$171.76	14.12%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	$500.00	$0.00	$121.12	$378.88	$0.00	$378.88	24.22%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	$700.00	$0.00	$139.46	$560.54	$0.00	$560.54	19.92%
	Commodities Totals:	$3,900.00	$0.00	$1,502.07	$2,397.93	$0.00	$2,397.93	38.51%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	$4,800.00	$436.37	$3,490.96	$1,309.04	$0.00	$1,309.04	72.73%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	$4,800.00	$436.37	$3,490.96	$1,309.04	$0.00	$1,309.04	72.73%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Health Admin Totals:	$1,014,889.95	$67,412.94	$579,699.50	$435,190.45	$37,861.56	$397,328.89	60.85%
228 Total:		$1,014,889.95	$67,412.94	$579,699.50	$435,190.45	$37,861.56	$397,328.89	60.85%
Grand Total:		$1,014,889.95	$67,412.94	$579,699.50	$435,190.45	$37,861.56	$397,328.89	60.85%

Target Percent: 66.67%

City of Middletown
Expense Report

Accounts: 228.450.51110 to 228.450.59200
Account Access Group: N/A
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 9/30/2025

Include Inactive Accounts: No
Include Pre-Encumbrances: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
228	HEALTH FUND					Target Percent:	75.00%	
Health Admin								
Personal Services								
228.450.51110	SALARIES & WAGES	$670,630.00	$50,858.68	$475,160.89	$195,469.11	$0.00	$195,469.11	70.85%
228.450.51120	OVERTIME WAGES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51211	PERS	$93,888.00	$17,766.13	$66,512.72	$27,375.28	$19.97	$27,355.31	70.86%
228.450.51220	WORKERS COMPENSATIO	$26,825.00	$0.00	$1,280.46	$25,544.54	$25,544.54	$0.00	100.00%
228.450.51230	GROUP HEALTH INSURANC	$90,018.00	$8,349.69	$70,058.13	$19,959.87	$0.00	$19,959.87	77.83%
228.450.51231	HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51240	UNEMPLOYMENT COMPEN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.51270	MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	$9,724.00	$707.05	$6,189.42	$3,534.58	$0.00	$3,534.58	63.65%
228.450.51275	LIFE INSURANCE	$1,825.00	$0.00	$1,064.70	$760.30	$152.10	$608.20	66.67%
228.450.51290	EMPLOYEE AWARDS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Personal Services Totals:	$892,910.00	$77,681.55	$620,266.32	$272,643.68	$25,716.61	$246,927.07	72.35%
Contractual Services								
228.450.52110	TRAVEL & TRAINING	$4,000.00	$0.00	$612.85	$3,387.15	$0.00	$3,387.15	15.32%
228.450.52111	MANDATORY TRAINING	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52120	EMPLOYEE MILEAGE REIM	$3,000.00	$0.00	$1,543.80	$1,456.20	$0.00	$1,456.20	51.46%
228.450.52222	TELEPHONE LINE CHARGE	$5,640.00	$1,950.00	$4,227.52	$1,412.48	$0.00	$1,412.48	74.96%
228.450.52230	POSTAGE AND POSTAL CH	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52260	HEALTH - DUE STATE GOV	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52310	MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHAR	$3,500.00	$0.00	$1,210.52	$2,289.48	$0.00	$2,289.48	34.59%
228.450.52340	EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE REN	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52410	LEGAL SERVICES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52420	MEDICAL SERVICE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52480	OTHER PROFESSIONAL SE	$41,085.00	$657.51	$12,212.88	$28,872.12	$0.00	$28,872.12	29.73%
228.450.52481	WORKFORCE GRANT CON	$32,699.95	$0.00	$1,755.36	$30,944.59	$12,144.95	$18,799.64	42.51%
228.450.52482	SYRINGE EXCHANGE PRO	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52483	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TRE	$150,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$150,000.00	$0.00	$150,000.00	0.00%
228.450.52488	HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EX	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52490	OUTSIDE PRINTING	$2,000.00	$0.00	$330.00	$1,670.00	$0.00	$1,670.00	16.50%
228.450.52510	MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPM	$8,000.00	$0.00	$2,525.15	$5,474.85	$0.00	$5,474.85	31.56%
228.450.52680	MEDICAL LIABILITY INSURA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52820	LICENSES AND PERMITS	$11,855.00	$0.00	$9,949.50	$1,905.50	$0.00	$1,905.50	83.93%
228.450.52920	MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PE	$1,500.00	$0.00	$361.63	$1,138.37	$0.00	$1,138.37	24.11%
228.450.52930	PHOTO SUPPLIES & PROC	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.52940	INDIGENT BURIALS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A

Expense Report
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 9/30/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Expense	YTD Expense	UnExp. Balance	Encumbrance	Unenc. Balance	% Used
	Contractual Services Totals:	$263,279.95	$2,607.51	$34,729.21	$228,550.74	$12,144.95	$216,405.79	17.80%
Commodities								
228.450.53100	OFFICE SUPPLIES	$2,500.00	$0.00	$1,213.25	$1,286.75	$0.00	$1,286.75	48.53%
228.450.53101	SUPPLIES FOR HIV GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53102	HARM REDUCTION SUPPLI	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53210	FOOD	$200.00	$0.00	$28.24	$171.76	$0.00	$171.76	14.12%
228.450.53510	SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN EQ	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPME	$500.00	$0.00	$121.12	$378.88	$0.00	$378.88	24.22%
228.450.53620	MAJOR TOOLS & EQUIP	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLI	$700.00	$0.00	$139.46	$560.54	$0.00	$560.54	19.92%
	Commodities Totals:	$3,900.00	$0.00	$1,502.07	$2,397.93	$0.00	$2,397.93	38.51%
Capital Outlay								
228.450.54300	COMPUTERS & OTHER PE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIA	$4,800.00	$436.37	$3,927.33	$872.67	$0.00	$872.67	81.82%
228.450.54320	OFFICE MACHINERY & EQU	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54360	OTHER EQUIPMENT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.450.54370	COMPUTER SOFTWARE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Capital Outlay Totals:	$4,800.00	$436.37	$3,927.33	$872.67	$0.00	$872.67	81.82%
Refunds								
228.450.59200	MISCELLANEOUS REFUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Refunds Totals:	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Health Admin Totals:	$1,164,889.95	$80,725.43	$660,424.93	$504,465.02	$37,861.56	$466,603.46	59.94%
228 Total:		$1,164,889.95	$80,725.43	$660,424.93	$504,465.02	$37,861.56	$466,603.46	59.94%
Grand Total:		$1,164,889.95	$80,725.43	$660,424.93	$504,465.02	$37,861.56	$466,603.46	59.94%
						Target Percent:	75.00%	

City of Middletown
Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 8/31/2025
Account Access Group: N/A
Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND			Target Percent:	66.67%	
Revenue						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	TOBACCO 21	$0.00	$250.00	$7,750.00	($7,750.00)	N/A
228.000.43311	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SY	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	$15,000.00	$0.00	$28,411.83	($13,411.83)	189.41%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	$100,000.00	$0.00	$113,832.45	($13,832.45)	113.83%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	$115,000.00	$250.00	$149,994.28	($34,994.28)	130.43%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	$59,420.00	$0.00	$29,710.00	$29,710.00	50.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	$100,000.00	$6,685.72	$75,675.81	$24,324.19	75.68%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	$0.00	$77.90	$312.69	($312.69)	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	$200.00	$0.00	$110.10	$89.90	55.05%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	$3,000.00	$0.00	$3,001.72	($1.72)	100.06%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	$750.00	$20.40	$510.00	$240.00	68.00%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	$80,000.00	$1,342.00	$76,209.00	$3,791.00	95.26%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	$35,000.00	$0.00	$30,054.50	$4,945.50	85.87%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	$4,200.00	$551.00	$19,966.20	($15,766.20)	475.39%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	$240.00	$0.00	$0.00	$240.00	0.00%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	$6,000.00	$0.00	$6,360.00	($360.00)	106.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	$2,500.00	$0.00	$1,437.50	$1,062.50	57.50%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	$200.00	$0.00	$213.00	($13.00)	106.50%
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	$50,000.00	$0.00	$58,635.31	($8,635.31)	117.27%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	$341,510.00	$8,677.02	$302,195.83	$39,314.17	88.49%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 8/31/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc						
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Reimbursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	$0.00	$9.00	$27,997.19	($27,997.19)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	$250,000.00	$25,000.00	$200,000.00	$50,000.00	80.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:	$250,000.00	$25,009.00	$227,997.19	$22,002.81	91.20%
	Revenue Totals:	$706,510.00	$33,936.02	$680,187.30	$26,322.70	96.27%
228 Total:		$706,510.00	$33,936.02	$680,187.30	$26,322.70	96.27%
Grand Total:		$706,510.00	$33,936.02	$680,187.30	$26,322.70	96.27%
					Target Percent:	66.67%

City of Middletown
Revenue Report

Accounts: 228.000.43310 to 228.000.49385
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 9/30/2025
Account Access Group: N/A
Include Inactive Accounts: No

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
228	HEALTH FUND			Target Percent:	75.00%	
Revenue						
Intergovernmental						
228.000.43310	TOBACCO 21	$0.00	$0.00	$7,750.00	($7,750.00)	N/A
228.000.43311	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATMENT SY	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43320	HIV GRANT (MONT CO)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43330	STATE HEALTH SUBSIDY	$15,000.00	$0.00	$28,411.83	($13,411.83)	189.41%
228.000.43331	IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43332	BUREAU CHILDRENS MEDICAL HANDIC	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43360	PHI GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43362	CHILD/FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES GRA	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43363	EARLY START GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43364	CARDIOVASCULAR GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43365	H1N1 GRANT REVENUE	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43366	US HHS STIMULUS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43367	COVID-19 CRISIS RESPONSE GRANT (	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43368	COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING GRANT (	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43369	HARM REDUCTION GRANT	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.43370	PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEV GR	$100,000.00	$0.00	$113,832.45	($13,832.45)	113.83%
	Intergovernmental Totals:	$115,000.00	$0.00	$149,994.28	($34,994.28)	130.43%
Charges for Service						
228.000.44197	ADMINISTRATIVE FEES	$59,420.00	$14,855.00	$44,565.00	$14,855.00	75.00%
228.000.44210	VITAL STATISTICS	$100,000.00	$6,888.24	$82,564.05	$17,435.95	82.56%
228.000.44211	VITAL STATISTICS SHIPPING CHARGE	$0.00	($131.10)	$181.59	($181.59)	N/A
228.000.44215	PATERNITY AFFIDAVITS	$200.00	$0.00	$110.10	$89.90	55.05%
228.000.44225	IMMUNIZATION CLINICS	$3,000.00	$0.00	$3,001.72	($1.72)	100.06%
228.000.44280	VENDING LICENSE	$750.00	$0.00	$510.00	$240.00	68.00%
228.000.44281	FSO RESTAURANT LICENSE	$80,000.00	$1,197.00	$77,406.00	$2,594.00	96.76%
228.000.44282	FOOD ESTABLISHMENT LICENSE	$35,000.00	$300.00	$30,354.50	$4,645.50	86.73%
228.000.44283	HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE	$4,200.00	$76.12	$20,042.32	($15,842.32)	477.20%
228.000.44284	FOOD SAFETY CLASSES	$240.00	$0.00	$0.00	$240.00	0.00%
228.000.44285	SWIMMING POOL/SPA	$6,000.00	$0.00	$6,360.00	($360.00)	106.00%
228.000.44286	TATTOO LICENSE	$2,500.00	$50.00	$1,487.50	$1,012.50	59.50%
228.000.44287	PARK/CAMPS LICENSE FEES	$200.00	$0.00	$213.00	($13.00)	106.50%
228.000.44288	MAC BILLING	$50,000.00	$15,472.06	$74,107.37	($24,107.37)	148.21%
228.000.44290	MOBILE HOME PARKS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
228.000.44844	CREDIT CARD FEES	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Charges for Service Totals:	$341,510.00	$38,707.32	$340,903.15	$606.85	99.82%

Revenue Report
As Of: 1/1/2025 to 9/30/2025

Account	Description	Budget	MTD Revenue	YTD Revenue	Uncollected	% Collected
Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc						
228.000.46780	MISCELLANEOUS	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Interest/Contributions/Rentals/Leases/Misc Totals:	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
Reimbursements/Transfers						
228.000.49100	REIMBURSEMENTS	$0.00	$3,199.00	$31,196.19	($31,196.19)	N/A
228.000.49330	FROM INCOME TAX	$250,000.00	$0.00	$200,000.00	$50,000.00	80.00%
228.000.49385	FROM CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	N/A
	Reimbursements/Transfers Totals:	$250,000.00	$3,199.00	$231,196.19	$18,803.81	92.48%
	Revenue Totals:	$706,510.00	$41,906.32	$722,093.62	($15,583.62)	102.21%
228 Total:		$706,510.00	$41,906.32	$722,093.62	($15,583.62)	102.21%
Grand Total:		$706,510.00	$41,906.32	$722,093.62	($15,583.62)	102.21%
					Target Percent:	75.00%

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PAY RANGES AND CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE MIDDLETOWN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Middletown, Butler and Warren Counties, Ohio:

Section 1

(A) Effective January 1, 2026, the salaried classifications within the service of the Middletown Department of Health and Environment are hereby established in pay ranges as follows:

Job Classifications	Salary Ranges for Employees Hired:
Administrative Assistant	184
Director of Environmental Health	177
Director of Environmental Health / Assistant Health Commissioner	176
Director of Nursing	177
Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training	184
Health Clerk	195
Health Commissioner	168
Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Coordinator	181
Public Health Nurse	182
Registered Environmental Health Specialist	182
Vital Statistic Deputy Registrar	186
Vital Statistics Registrar	184

All employees shall be paid in the Range provided above, except as otherwise stated herein, and the salary ranges above shall be equivalent to those set forth in the most current ordinance establishing pay ranges for City of Middletown employees. **A table showing Exempt, Supervisory, Unclassified and Classified positions is included as Exhibit A.**

(B) The Assistant Health Commissioner/Director of Environmental Health, Director of Environmental Health, Director of Nursing, Health Commissioner and Medical Director positions are exempt employees.

(C) Adjustments for Health Commissioner. Any Health Commissioner who obtains or possesses a masters or doctoral degree from an accredited college or university, or receives or possesses certification or licensure deemed by the City Manager to be

similar or equivalent to such a degree in a field related to his/her employment, shall be paid one range higher than their regular rate of pay.

(D) Implementation of Reclassifications.

(1) All reclassifications included in Section 1(A) of this Ordinance shall be implemented by providing a step increase to the affected employee on his/her next anniversary date. If an affected employee is scheduled to receive a step increase regardless of the reclassification, no additional increases in base pay will be provided during **2026** except for the scheduled step increase.

(2) However, any affected employee whose scheduled step increase in **2026** would not result in an amount equivalent to or higher than Step A of the new Range assigned to the position occupied by the affected employee shall be placed in Step A of the new Range effective January 1, **2026**. These employees shall be given a new anniversary date of January 1.

(3) Any part-time employee affected by a reclassification in this Ordinance shall be assigned to a step in the new Range for that position at the step equivalent to at least four percent (4%) higher than their present rate of pay.

(4) The procedures for implementation of the reclassifications set forth in Section 6 of the City's Pay and Benefits Ordinance are not applicable to the reclassifications set forth in Section 1(A) of this Ordinance.

Section 2

The position of Medical Director shall be on call at all times and available to handle any health-related emergency affecting the community. The schedule of the Medical Director shall be determined by the Health Commissioner. The Medical Director shall be paid an annual salary in the amount of $13,000.00 to be paid monthly in twelve (12) equal increments.

Section 3

Employees of the Middletown Department of Health and Environmental shall receive benefits and be subject to the pay policies as set forth in the most current ordinance establishing the pay policy and benefits for City of Middletown employees.

Section 4

In the event of a public health pandemic declaration, the City Manager may, at their sole discretion, award exempt employees of the Middletown Board of Health cash bonus payments to those who are working over and above their regular work week without overtime compensation. Cash bonus payments may not exceed five percent (5%) of an exempt employee's annual salary.

Section 5

This ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and general welfare, to wit: to allow the ordinance to be effective on January 1, 2026, and shall take effect and be in force from and after its adoption.

_____
Elizabeth Slamka, Mayor, President
Middletown Board of Health

Adopted: 12/09/2025

_____
Jacquelyn D. Phillips Carter, Secretary
Middletown Board of Health

_____
Law Department, City of Middletown

EXHIBIT A

Table of Exempt (E), Supervisory (S), Unclassified (UC) & Classified (C) Positions

Job Classifications	E	S	UC	C
Administrative Assistant			X	
Director of Environmental Health	X	X	X	
Director of Environmental Health / Assistant Health Commissioner	X	X	X	
Director of Nursing	X		X	
Environmental Health Specialist-in-Training				X
Health Clerk				X
Health Commissioner	X	X	X	
Public Health Accreditation Board Coordinator			X	
Public Health Nurse	X		X	
Registered Environmental Health Specialist				X
Vital Statistics Deputy Registrar				X
Vital Statistics Registrar				X

MBHE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06

A REGULATION APPROVING THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown Board of Health was created under authority of the laws of the State of Ohio and the Charter of the City of Middletown to administer all programs and activities of the City of Middletown Health Department; and

WHEREAS, the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District may make such order and regulations as are necessary for the public's health, for the prevention or restriction of diseases and for the prevention, abatement or suppression of nuisances; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, by the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District, State of Ohio, that said board hereby approves the fiscal year 2026 budget request of the department of Health in the amount of $1,246,373.00 (as described in the attached document); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the City of Middletown Board of Health certifies that the funds requested in the fiscal year 2026 budget request as described previously are necessary for the Board of Health and the City of Middletown's Health District's Health Department to perform their responsibilities and duties as set out in Section 3707.28 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Ohio Administrative Code, and the Charter of the City of Middletown, Ohio.

Adopted by the City of Middletown Board of Health of the City of Middletown Health District, this 9th day of December 2025.

Elizabeth Slamka, Mayor, President, City of Middletown Board of Health

Jacquelyn Phillips Carter, MPH, BSN, RN, Health Commissioner, City of Middletown Health Department, Board of Health Secretary

DATE ADOPTED:
December 9, 2025

Approved as to form:
Law Department, City of Middletown

TO:	Accounts of 990	Transfers Out	$	7,630,224.00		
		Other expenditures			$	7,630,224.00
	TOTAL	STREET LEVY FUND			$	7,630,224.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	AUTO & GAS TAX FUND (Fund #210)	$	4,900,255.00		
TO:	Accounts of 524	Electronic Maintenance	$	863,281.00		
		Personal Services			$	481,527.00
		All other expenditures			$	381,754.00
	Accounts of 541	Street Maintenance	$	3,707,940.00		
		Personal Services			$	1,667,903.00
		All other expenditures			$	2,040,037.00
	Accounts of 543	Grounds Maintenance	$	329,034.00		
		Personal Services			$	116,570.00
		All other expenditures			$	212,464.00
	TOTAL	AUTO & GAS TAX FUND			$	4,900,255.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	CONSERVANCY FUND (Fund #215)	$	252,670.00		
TO:	Accounts of 990	Conservancy	$	252,670.00		
		Other expenditures			$	252,670.00
	TOTAL	CONSERVANCY FUND			$	252,670.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Fund #220)	$	7,336,000.00		
TO:	Various Accts	Capital Improvements	$	7,336,000.00		
		Other expenditures			$	7,336,000.00
	TOTAL	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND			$	7,336,000.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	ACQUISITION FOR PARKS (Fund #225)	$	150,000.00		
TO:	Various Accts	Miscellaneous	$	150,000.00		
		Other expenditures			$	150,000.00
	TOTAL	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND			$	150,000.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	HEALTH FUND (Fund #228)	$	1,246,373.00		
TO:	Accounts of 450	Health Administration	$	1,246,373.00		
		Personal Services			$	987,093.00
		All other expenditures			$	259,280.00
	TOTAL	HEALTH FUND			$	1,246,373.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	EMS FUND (Fund #229)	$	30,000.00		
TO:	Accounts of 990	EMS	$	30,000.00		
		Other expenditures			$	30,000.00
	TOTAL	EMS FUND			$	30,000.00
FROM:	Unappropriated	CITY INCOME TAX FUND (Fund #230)	$	35,780,270.00		
TO:	Accounts of 133	Taxation	$	895,382.00		
		Personal Services			$	783,132.00
		All other expenditures			$	112,250.00
	Accounts of 915	Transfers Out	$	34,884,888.00		
		Other expenditures			$	34,884,888.00

City of Middletown
2026 Budget

	Full Year Actual 2024	Initial Budget 2025	Supplemental Budget 2025	Total Current Year Budget 2025	Next Year Budget
* Report Contains Filters					
228 HEALTH FUND					
450 Health Admin					
Expense					
Personnel					
228.450.51110 SALARIES & WAGES	591,969.26	670,630.00	0.00	670,630.00	738,020.00
228.450.51211 PERS	85,019.89	93,888.00	0.00	93,888.00	103,323.00
228.450.51220 WORKERS COMPENSATION	12,821.37	26,825.00	0.00	26,825.00	29,521.00
228.450.51230 GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	89,669.40	90,018.00	0.00	90,018.00	103,703.00
228.450.51270 MEDICARE-CITY SHARE	8,726.86	9,724.00	0.00	9,724.00	10,701.00
228.450.51275 LIFE INSURANCE	1,808.30	1,825.00	0.00	1,825.00	1,825.00
Sub Total Personnel	**790,015.08**	**892,910.00**	**0.00**	**892,910.00**	**987,093.00**
Other					
228.450.52110 TRAVEL & TRAINING	3,353.31	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
228.450.52120 EMPLOYEE MILEAGE	2,353.06	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
228.450.52222 TELEPHONE LINE CHARGES - HEALTH	3,630.41	5,640.00	0.00	5,640.00	5,640.00
228.450.52310 MUNICIPAL GARAGE CHARGES	2,770.51	3,500.00	0.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
228.450.52480 OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	18,412.37	41,085.00	0.00	41,085.00	41,085.00
228.450.52481 WORKFORCE GRANT CONTRACTUAL	9,770.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
228.450.52483 HOUSEHOLD SEWAGE TREATEMENT	0.00	0.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00
228.450.52488 HEALTH DEPT COVID-19 EXPENSES	3,815.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
228.450.52490 OUTSIDE PRINTING	1,291.31	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
228.450.52510 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT	6,463.48	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00	8,000.00
228.450.52820 LICENSES AND PERMITS	9,307.50	11,855.00	0.00	11,855.00	12,280.00
228.450.52920 MEMBERSHIPS, BOOKS, PERIODICAL	274.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,075.00
228.450.53100 OFFICE SUPPLIES	2,124.81	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00

City of Middletown
2026 Budget

* Report Contains Filters

		Full Year Actual 2024	Initial Budget 2025	Supplemental Budget 2025	Total Current Year Budget 2025	Next Year Budget
228.450.53210	FOOD	151.38	200.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
228.450.53610	SMALL TOOLS & EQUIPMENT	196.22	500.00	0.00	500.00	500.00
228.450.53710	CHEMICALS & LAB SUPPLIES	478.25	700.00	0.00	700.00	700.00
228.450.54310	AUTO & TRUCK DEPRECIATION	4,800.07	4,800.00	0.00	4,800.00	4,800.00
Sub Total Other		**69,191.68**	**109,280.00**	**150,000.00**	**259,280.00**	**259,280.00**
Sub Total 450 Health Admin		**859,206.76**	**1,002,190.00**	**150,000.00**	**1,152,190.00**	**1,246,373.00**

City of Middletown

2026 Budget

	Full Year Actual 2024	Initial Budget 2025	Supplemental Budget 2025	Total Current Year Budget 2025	Next Year Budget
* Report Contains Filters					
Sub Total 228 HEALTH FUND	**859,206.76**	**1,002,190.00**	**150,000.00**	**1,152,190.00**	**1,246,373.00**

MIDDLETOWN
City of Middletown Health Department

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

PHAB
Advancing Public Health Performance

City of Middletown Health Department
Middletown, Ohio
A Connected and Healthy Community to Live, Work and

City of Middletown Board of Health
2026 Meeting Dates

2026

JANUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

APRIL

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JULY

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

SEPTEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

City of Middletown Health Department | One Donham Plaza | Middletown, Ohio 45042 | 513.425.1818 | Fax 513.425.7852

Created December 2025

Health Commissioner

Position Description:	Health Commissioner
Division/Department:	Health
Reports To:	City of Middletown Board of Health
Classified/Unclassified:	Unclassified
Exempt or Non-Exempt:	Exempt
Union or Non-Union:	Non-Union
Salary Range:	168
Board of Health Approval:	XX.XX.XXXX

Position Summary

The Health Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the health department. The Health Commissioner is responsible for the direct supervision of the department directors. The Health Commissioner ensures the development, maintenance and implementation of the City of Middletown Health Department Strategic Plan, Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan, Workforce Development Plan, Performance Management Plan, Quality Improvement Plan and Brand Strategy consistent with the standards identified by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

The Health Commissioner is authorized to approve and implement all decisions regarding personnel that fall within the budget, support the approved Strategic Plan, and are compliant with local, state, federal laws and regulations. The Health Commissioner is the primary representative of the department in the community and is the point of contact for elected officials.

Minimum Qualifications

1. A master's degree in public health (MPH) or a closely related field relevant to the promotion and protection of the public's health is preferred, plus 5 years of professional public health experience that includes a minimum of 4 years of administrative or supervisory experience in governmental public health.
2. Must a valid State of Ohio driver's license and remain insurable in accordance with the city's insurance policy. License must be presented for validation within six weeks of accepted offer.

Statutory Requirements

1. The person appointed as commissioner shall be a licensed physician, licensed dentist, a licensed veterinarian, licensed podiatrist, licensed chiropractor, registered nurse or the holder of a master's degree in public health or an equivalent master's degree in a related health field as determined by the members of the Board of Health. He/She shall be secretary of the board and shall devote such time to the duties of his/her office as may be fixed by contract with the board. The commissioner shall be the executive officer of the board and shall carry out all orders of the board and of the Ohio Department of Health. He/She shall be charged with the enforcement of all sanitary laws and regulations in the City of Middletown, Ohio. The commissioner shall keep the public informed on all matters affecting the health of the city. [Ohio Revised Code Section 3709.11]

Requisite Professional Attitudes

The following are examples only and are not intended to be all inclusive.

1. Willingness to expand one's knowledge base and inspire others to do the same.
2. Willingness to participate in workforce development and promote the same among staff.
3. Willingness to participate in and/or lead agency-wide initiatives, including but not limited to the pursuit of national accreditation and participation in times of public health emergencies.
4. Willingness to assist all Middletown residents independent of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation and/or socioeconomic status.

Essential Functions of the Position

1. Plans and assures the effective implementation of programs to promote and protect the health of the City of Middletown population through active participation with Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement planning, Strategic planning, Quality Improvement planning/implementation, Workforce Development planning/implementation and Performance Management implementation.
2. Approves or declines department staff requests for time away (sick, vacation, training/travel, other) in a manner that ensures adequate staffing levels.
3. Reviews recommendations resulting from employment Interviews of all candidates and approves all new hires.
4. Leads by example regarding regular and predictable attendance.
5. Assures compliance with the department's records retention policy.
6. Assures compliance with the departments and city's policy manuals.
7. Meets all job safety requirements and all applicable OSHA safety standards that pertain to essential functions.
8. Attend meetings, seminars, conferences, and other job-related training sessions.
9. Represents department in the community and to the Board of Health.
10. Responds to public health emergencies in accordance with response plans using the incident command system.
11. Perform any and all other related duties to promote, further, and ensure the effective and efficient operation of the City of Middletown Health Department.

Functions, Competencies and Skills

1. Assures that the department conducts organizational strategic planning and monitors progress toward strategic goals.
2. Assures that the department participates in or leads ongoing community health assessment and planning in partnership with other community stakeholders, e.g., hospitals and other health departments.
3. Identifies and pursues funding from public and private foundation sources to address public health priorities identified through organizational strategic planning and community health assessments.
4. Seeks volunteer leadership positions with local funding organizations, e.g., Family First Council, community foundations, to encourage them to support public health priorities identified through community health assessment processes.
5. Serves on boards and committees of other community organizations to assure that the agency is fully integrated into the local public health system.
6. Assures that the Board complies with statutory reporting requirements and communicates its findings to the community.
7. Educates state and federal legislators and policymakers about funding and policy changes needed to address current and emerging public health problems.
8. Participates in research activities with academic and practice partners to increase the evidence-base for public health practice.

9. Serves as primary media spokesperson for the City of Middletown Health Department on public health topics or identifies other subject matter experts for that role if appropriate for a particular topic.
10. Leads department efforts to achieve and maintain local health department accreditation from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).
11. Coaches and supports managers and staff to help them achieve organizational and personal improvement goals and identify measures of success; creates and promotes leadership development and succession planning opportunities for managers and staff.
12. Communicate regularly and frequently with Board of Health members, managers, staff, external stakeholders, and the public through in-person meetings, community forums, email, newsletters and/or written reports about trends and events of importance to the organization and the public.
13. Actively involves herself/himself in peer professional organizations, e.g., National Association of County and City Health Officials, Association of Ohio Health Commissioners, Ohio Public Health Association, American Public Health Association.
14. Actively involves herself/himself in stakeholder organizations.
15. Continuously monitors organizational climate through surveys, focus groups and other media to assure a high level of staff morale and performance.
16. Assesses job performance of direct reports on an annual basis or more frequently if necessary and identifies opportunities for individual performance improvement.
17. Drafts and reviews local public health regulations that address emerging public health problems for adoption by the Board of Health.
18. Convenes administrative hearings with individuals and business entities subject to enforcement action to resolve complaints and avoid escalated enforcement action, i.e., Board of Health orders or court action.
19. Identifies and recruits' community members for service on organizational advisory boards and committees.
20. Prepares agendas and meeting materials for Board of Health meetings and meetings of its committees.
21. Mobilizes support among the public and policymakers for public policy changes that improve health.
22. Consults with municipal leaders to ensure that mutual expectations for public health services are being met.
23. Develop new community collaborations, coalitions and initiatives when appropriate to address emerging public health issues.

General Health Competencies

The following are intended to guide ongoing professional development.

1. Analytical and Assessment Skills
    a. Describe factors affecting the health of the community.
    b. Identifies quantitative and qualitative data and information that can be used for assessing the health of a community.
    c. Apply ethical principles in assessing, collecting, analyzing, using, maintaining and disseminating data and information.
    d. Use information technology in assessing, collecting, analyzing, using, maintaining and disseminating data and information.
    e. Selects valid, reliable and comparable data, as well as identifying gaps in data.
    f. Use quantitative and qualitative data.
    g. Describes assets and resources that can be used for improving the health of a community.
    h. Contributes to assessments of community health status and factors influencing health in a community.
    i. Explains how community health assessments use information about health status, factors influencing health, and assets and resources.

2. Policy Development and Program Planning Skills
    a. Contributes to community health improvement planning.
    b. Contributes to development of program goals and objectives.
    c. Contributes to implementation of all department plans (Strategic, CHIP, Workforce Development, Quality Improvement, etc.
    d. Identifies current trends affecting the health of a community.
    e. Gathers information that can inform options for policies, programs, and services.
    f. Implements policies, programs, and services.
    g. Explains the importance of evaluations for improving policies, programs, and services.
    h. Gathers information for evaluating policies, programs, and services.
    i. Apply strategies for continuous quality improvement.
    j. Describes how public health informatics is used in developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services communication skills.

3. Communication Skills
    a. Identifies the literacy of populations served.
    b. Communicates in writing and orally with linguistic and cultural proficiency.
    c. Solicits input from individuals and organizations for improving the health of a community.
    d. Suggest approaches for disseminating public health data and information.
    e. Conveys data and information to professionals and the public using a variety of approaches.
    f. Communicates information to influence behavior and improve health.
    g. Describes the roles of governmental public health, health care, and other partners in improving the health of a community.

4. Cultural Competency Skills
    a. Describes the concept of diversity as it applies to individuals and populations.
    b. Describes the diversity of individuals and populations in a community.
    c. Describes the ways diversity may influence policies, programs, services, and the health of a community.
    d. Addresses the diversity of individuals and populations when implementing policies, programs, and services that affect the health of a community.
    e. Describes the effects of policies, programs, and services on different populations in a community
    f. Describes the value of a diverse public health workforce.

5. Community Dimensions of Practice
    a. Describes the programs and services provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the health of a community.
    b. Recognizes relationships that are affecting health in a community.
    c. Suggest relationships that may be needed to improve health in a community.
    d. Supports relationships that improve health in a community.
    e. Collaborates and engages with community partners to improve health in a community.
    f. Provides input for developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services.
    g. Use assets and resources to improve health in a community.
    h. Informs the public about policies, programs and resources that improve health in a community.

6. Public Health Sciences
    a. Describes how public health sciences are used in the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
    b. Describes evidence used in developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services.

c. Describes the laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for the ethical conduct of research.
d. Contributes to the public health evidence base.
e. Suggests partnerships that may increase use of evidence in public health practice.

7. Financial Planning and Management Skills
   a. Describes the structures, functions, and authorizations of governmental public health programs and organizations.
   b. Describes government agencies with authority to impact the health of a community.
   c. Adheres to organizational policies and procedures.
   d. Describes public health funding mechanisms.
   e. Contributes to development of program budgets.
   f. Provides information for proposals for funding.
   g. Provides information for development of contracts and other agreements for programs and services.
   h. Describes financial analysis methods used in making decisions about policies, programs, and services.
   i. Operates programs within budget.
   j. Describes how teams help achieve program and organizational goals.
   k. Motivates colleagues for the purpose of achieving program and organizational goals.
   l. Uses evaluation results to improve program and organizational performance.
   m. Describes program performance standards and measures.
   n. Uses performance management systems for program and organizational improvement.

8. Leadership and Systems Thinking Skills
   a. Incorporates ethical standards of practice into all interactions with individuals, organizations, and communities.
   b. Describes public health as part of a larger inter-related system of organizations that influence the health of populations at local, national, and global levels.
   c. Describes the ways public health, health care, and other organizations can work together or individually to impact the health of a community.
   d. Contributes to development of a vision for a healthy community.
   e. Identifies internal and external facilitators and barriers that may affect the delivery of the 10 Essential Public Health Services.
   f. Describes the impact of changes on organizational practices.
   g. Describes ways to improve individual and program performance.
   h. Participates in professional development opportunities.
   i. Describes ways to improve individual and program performance.

Position-Specific Competencies

The following are professional competencies expected of the incumbent in this position.

1. Collaborates with others to achieve common goals and to optimize delivery of services
2. Employ strategies and facilitate team-building skills
3. Identifies, analyzes, and manages risk, adverse events and safety to self, staff, customer, and public
4. Implement strategies for performance management and continuous quality improvement
5. Implement strategies for workforce development, recruitment, and retention
6. Integrate systems thinking into public health practice and use cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost-utility analyses in programmatic prioritization and decision making

---

Position Performance Evaluation Metrics

The following are the metrics that will be used to evaluate the performance of the Division Director.

1. The Health Commissioner is evaluated annually by the Board of Health on or about the health commissioner's anniversary date.
2. The Department is following a sound strategic plan.
    a. The objectives stated in the plan are being actively worked on.
    b. The Department has a current Community Health Assessment.
3. The Department has a current Community Health Improvement Plan.
    a. The Department is participating in the plan.
4. Programs have performance metrics.
    a. Program performance is being monitored and evaluated.
5. Department personnel are adequately supported to successfully engage in programming.
    a. Staff supervision (group and individual) is being delivered.
    b. Staff Individual Development Plans are being followed.
    c. Agency personnel are credentialed as appropriate.
6. The Department is operating within the approved annual budget.
7. The Department is respected by community partner organizations, stakeholders and the public.

Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Butler County
General Health District

Butler County Monthly Communicable Disease Surveillance Report

November of 2025

Josh Melegari, MPH
Josh.melegari@bcohio.gov

Notifiable Communicable Diseases

Summary:

- *Number of Disease Cases Reported in Butler County: 195*
- *Most Frequently Reported: Chlamydia, Gonococcal Infection, Hep C. Pertussis, CPO*

Table 1. Comparison of Reported Cases of Confirmed or Probable Notifiable Communicable Diseases, November 2025 (excluding Chlamydia infection and gonorrhea)

	Reported Cases	Rate per 100,000	Rate Ratio	Confidence Interval
State of Ohio (excluding BC)	2736	24.0	-	-
Butler County	87	22.3	0.929	(0.75-1.15)

Interpretation: The residents of Butler County were 7.1% less likely to be the subject of a notifiable disease report when compared to the rest of Ohio as a whole. These results are not statistically significant. (excluding Chlamydia infection and Gonorrhea)

Table 2.* Communicable Diseases by Jurisdiction (November 2025)

Jurisdiction	Count	Rate per 100,000	Change from Previous Month
Butler County General Health District	94	34.1	↓32.4% from October 2025 (n=139)
Middletown City Health Department	55	107.8	↑10.0% from October 2025 (n=50)
City of Hamilton Health Department	46	72.6	↓16.4% from October 2025 (n=55)
Butler County *(all inclusive)*	**195**	**50.0**	↓20.1% from October 2025 (n=244)

Table 3.* Butler County Reportable Diseases by Subgroups (November 2025)

Reportable Disease Subgroup	Count	Trend
Viral Hepatitis (B and C)	19	↓34.5% from October 2025 (n=29)
Sexually-Transmitted Infections (Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhea, Syphilis and HIV)	116	↓18.9% from October 2025 (n=143)
Enteric Diseases (Hepatitis A, Amebiasis, Campylobacteriosis, Cryptosporidiosis, Cyclosporiasis, STEC, Giardiasis, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibriosis and Yersiniosis)	12	↓52.0% from October 2025 (n=25)
Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (COVID-19, influenza-associated hospitalizations, *Haemophilus influenzae*, Bacterial meningitis, Mumps, Pertussis, invasive *Streptococcus pneumonia*, Tetanus, and Varicella)	29	↑38.1% from October 2025 (n=21)

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of November 1 – 30, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of November. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 12/03/2025.

Table 4. *Diseases Reported in Butler County (November 2025)

Jurisdictions	Butler County General Health District	City of Hamilton Health Department	Middletown City Health Department	Butler County *(all inclusive)*
Anaplasmosis-Anaplasma phagocytophilum	2	0	0	2
Babesiosis	1	0	0	1
C. auris	1	1	1	3
CPO	3	2	2	7
Campylobacteriosis	1	3	1	5
Chlamydia infection	50	15	20	85
Coccidioidomycosis	1	0	0	1
E. coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (O157:H7, Not O157, Unknown Serotype)	1	1	0	2
Giardiasis	1	0	0	1
Gonococcal infection	10	6	8	24
Hepatitis B (including delta) - chronic	0	4	0	4
Hepatitis C - chronic	5	7	3	15
Influenza-associated hospitalization	5	1	0	6
Legionellosis	1	0	0	1
Lyme Disease	0	1	0	1
Mumps	1	0	0	1
Pertussis	3	2	10	15
Salmonellosis	0	0	1	1
Shigellosis	1	1	0	2
Strep Pneumoniae - invasive	2	0	1	3
Streptococcal - Group A -invasive	1	1	1	3
Syphilis	1	1	5	7
Varicella	2	0	2	4
Yersiniosis	1	0	0	1
Total	**94**	**46**	**55**	**195**

Table 5.* Butler County November Outbreaks

Outbreak Type	Causative Agent	Classification Status	Investigation Status

- No outbreaks reported to BCGHD during the month of November

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of November 1 – 30, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of November. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 12/03/2025.

Table 6 outlines Butler County's select, reportable disease counts by year, that were classified as either "probable" or "confirmed" during the years of 2020 through 2025 and provides a 5-year average column for comparison. Graph includes those diseases that represent a consistent threat to public health.

Table 6. * Reported Probable/Confirmed Cases in Butler County (2020–2025)

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	5 Year Avg.	Up to 11/30/2025
Amebiasis	0	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Anaplasmosis- Anaplasma phagocytophilum	0	0	0	0	0	<1	1
Botulism- wound	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Brucellosis	0	2	0	0	0	<1	0
Candida auris (not reportable prior to 2019)	0	1	13	37	57	21.6	50
Campylobacteriosis	30	35	48	49	42	40.8	53
Chlamydia infection	1,512	1,406	1,359	1,321	1,208	1361.2	1069
COVID-19 (not reportable prior to 2020)	26,420	39,521	49,323	12,192	9303	27351.8	4294
CPO (replaces CP-CRE) (not reportable prior to 2019)	10	11	12	93	58	36.8	55
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease	0	1	1	0	0	<1	1
Cryptosporidiosis	6	5	7	7	12	7.4	7
Cyclosporiasis	0	0	1	3	1	1.0	0
Dengue	0	1	1	0	1	<1	0
E. coli, Shiga-Toxin Producing	14	15	17	17	12	15.0	9
Ehrlichiosis-Ehrlichia chaffeensis	1	1	1	0	0	<1	0
Giardiasis	4	14	7	13	5	8.6	4
Gonococcal Infection	651	480	473	413	369	477.2	272
Haemophilus influenzae (invasive disease)	7	6	11	18	14	11.2	5
Hemolytic uremic syndrome	0	1	0	1	0	<1	0
Hepatitis A	2	1	0	2	0	1.0	0
Hepatitis B - acute/chronic/perinatal	67	85	78	82	69	76.2	53
Hepatitis C – acute/chronic/perinatal	486	434	390	280	234	364.8	200
HIV	17	58	38	35	44	38.4	
Hansen's disease	0	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Influenza-associated Hospitalization	266	18	306	70	333	198.6	410
Legionellosis – Legionnaires' Disease	10	10	15	12	14	12.2	17
Listeriosis	0	0	1	2	0	<1	0
Lyme Disease	2	0	2	2	5	2.2	5
Malaria	2	1	3	4	3	2.6	1
Measles – imported outside Ohio	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Meningitis – aseptic/viral	9	14	10	10	26	13.8	6
Meningitis – bacterial (not N. meningitidis)	3	3	11	10	11	7.6	3
Meningococcal dz. – Neisseria meningitidis	0	0	0	0	3	<1	0
MIS-C associated with COVID-19	0	15	7	1	0	4.6	0
Mpox (not reportable prior to 2022)	-	-	4	0	0	1.3	0
Mumps	0	0	0	0	1	<1	0
Pertussis	13	3	3	5	65	17.8	80
Salmonellosis	20	26	34	54	36	34.0	35
Salmonella Paratyphi	0	0	0	1	1	<1	0
Salmonella Typhi (Typhoid Fever)	0	2	0	1	2	1.0	0
Shigellosis	8	3	6	7	12	7.2	12
Spotted Fever Rickettsiosis (including RMSF)	2	0	1	0	0	<1	0
Streptococcal – Group A – invasive	27	24	34	39	31	31.0	18
Streptococcal – Group B – in newborn	1	0	1	1	0	<1	3
Streptococcus pneumoniae – Invasive	31	33	40	43	40	37.4	42
Syphilis (all stages)	17	23	45	66	55	41.2	46
Tuberculosis (active)	6	7	8	7	13	8.2	17
Varicella	1	5	8	19	11	8.8	5
Vibriosis (not Cholera)	0	2	2	3	2	1.8	3
West Nile Virus Disease	0	0	0	1	0	<1	1
Yersiniosis	0	1	2	4	4	2.2	4

*Data is provisional and subject to change – Table 1 does not include Gonorrhea or Chlamydia infection due to the high likelihood of duplicate cases and co-infections. Suspected, probable, & confirmed cases are included in counts for Tables 2-4 except for cases of arboviral encephalitis such as Zika virus disease, of which only probable and confirmed cases are reported and Novel Influenza A of which only confirmed cases are reported. Report reflects diseases reported to ODH for the period of November 1 – 30, 2025, unless otherwise noted. Table 5 includes outbreaks that were newly reported during the month of November. Table 6 includes only probable and confirmed cases. Data accessed from the Ohio Disease Reporting System (ODRS) on 12/03/2025.

Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohio.gov

Figure 1: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Week for November 2025

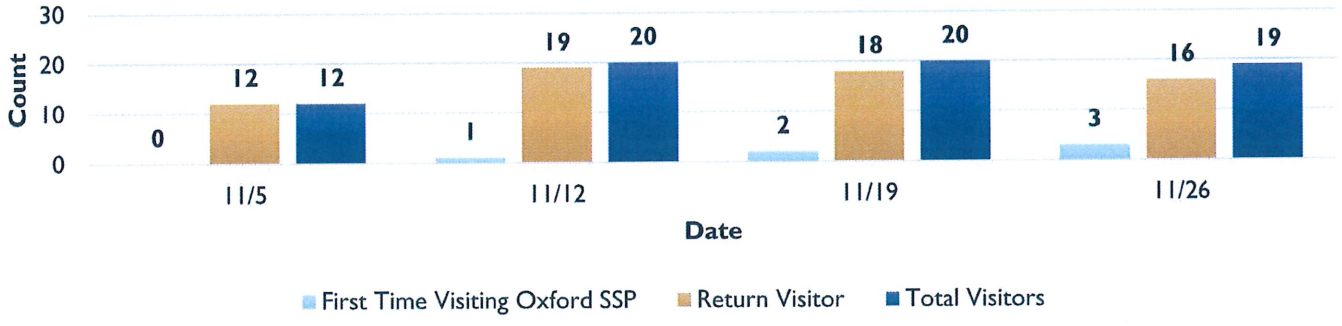


Figure 2: Oxford SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2024 and 2025

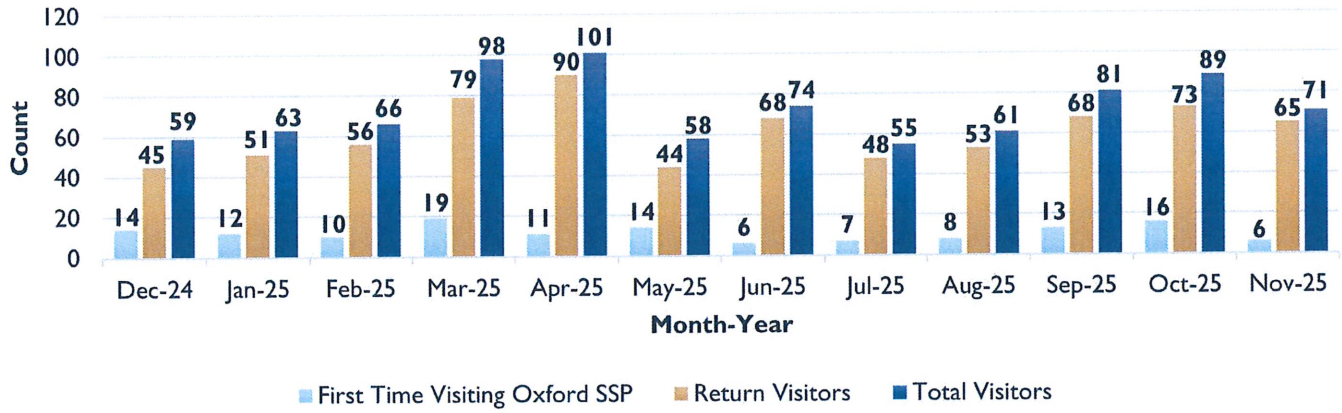
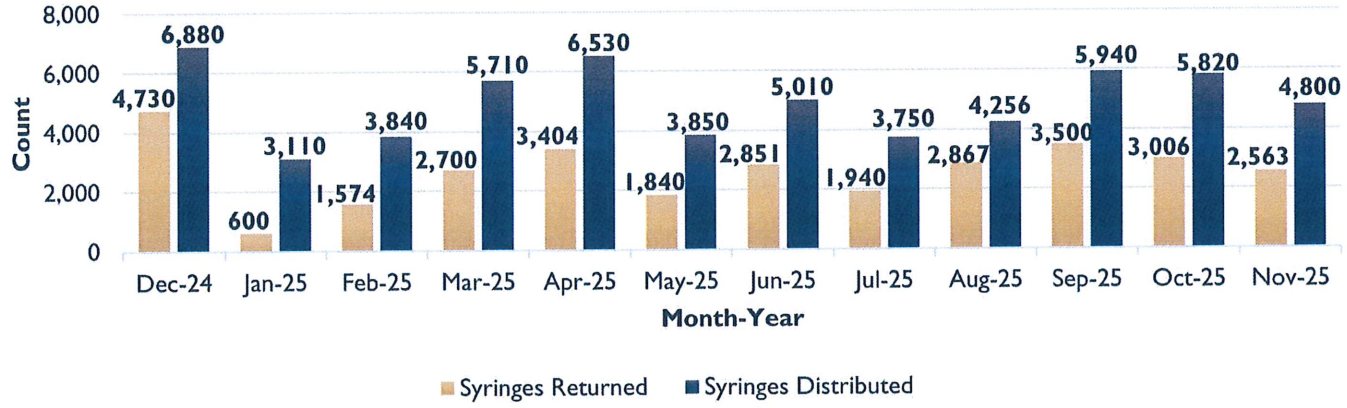


Figure 3: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Oxford SSP Site for 2024 and 2025



BCGHD is a PHAB Accredited Health Department

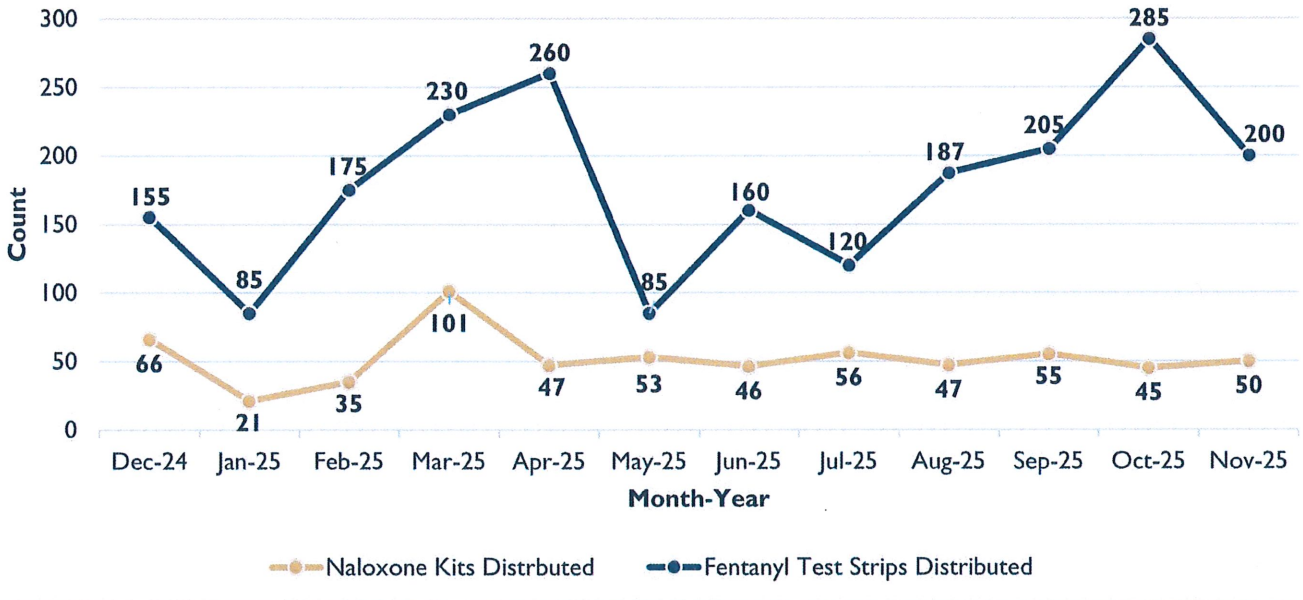
Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohio.gov

Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code – City or County for the Oxford SSP Site by Visitors' Reported Home Residence for November 2025

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	600	1,000	60.00%
45013	400	960	41.67%
45015	200	280	71.43%
Hamilton Total	1,200	2,240	53.57%
45044 - Middletown	160	320	50.00%
45056 - Oxford	1,203	2,160	55.69%
Clark County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Hamilton County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Total	**2,563**	**4,800**	**53.40%**

Figure 4: Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Oxford SSP Site for 2024 and 2025



Source: Butler County General Health District – Oxford Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained December 1, 2025, Data is provisional and subject to change

Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohio.gov

Figure 1: Fairfield SSP Site Visitors by Month for 2024 and 2025

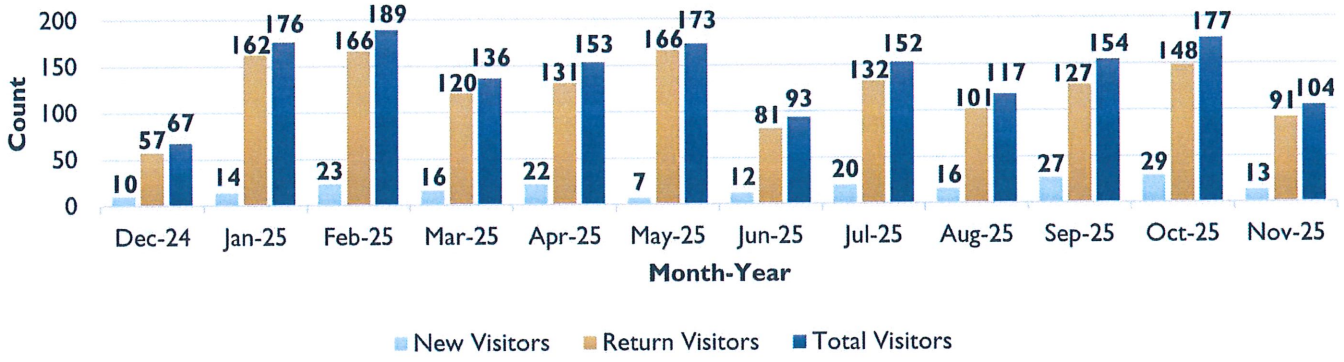


Figure 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Month for the Fairfield SSP Site for 2024 and 2025

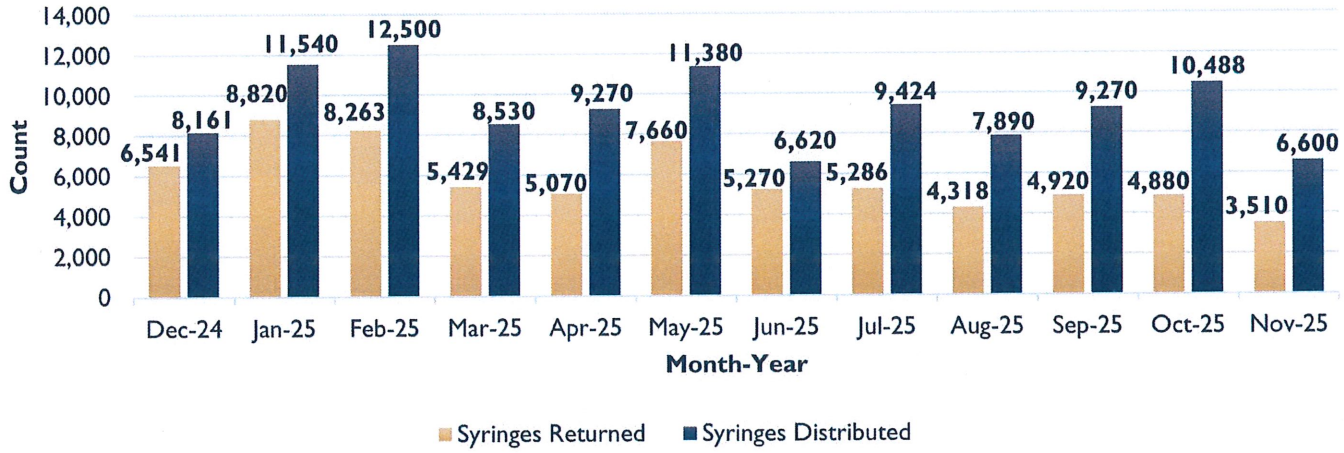


Table 1: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Visitors' Home County of Residence for the Fairfield SSP Site for November 2025

County	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Butler County, OH	3,410	6,340	53.79%
Hamilton County, OH	100	220	45.45%
Warren County, OH	0	40	0.00%
Total	**3,510**	**6,600**	**53.18%**

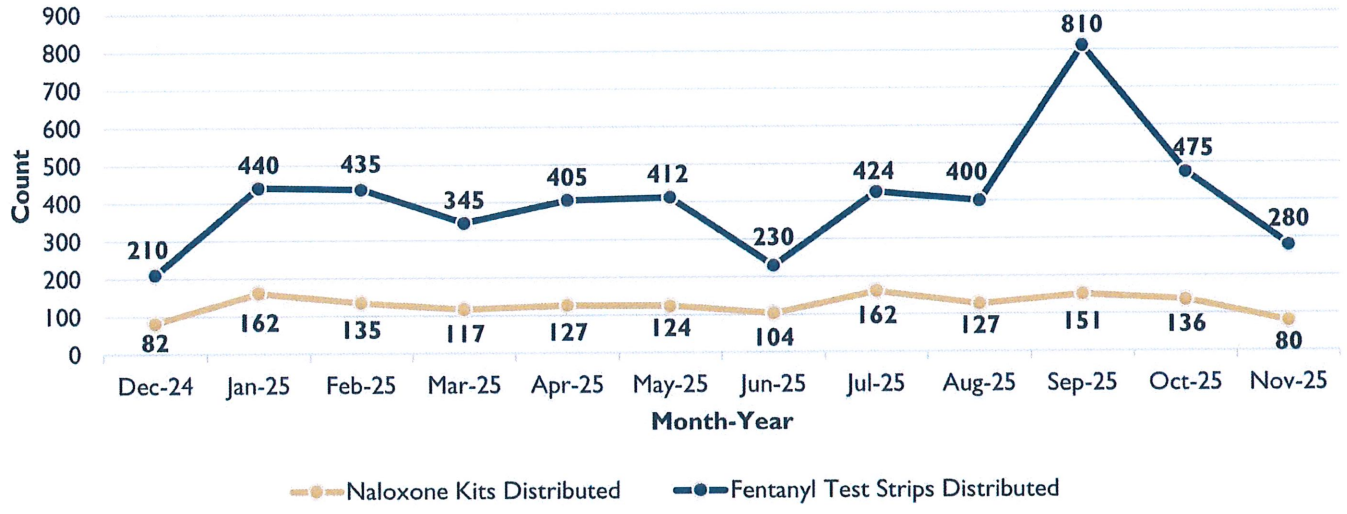
Butler County
General Health District

301 South Third Street
Hamilton, Ohio 45011
P: 513-863-1770
F: 513-863-4372
health.bcohio.gov

Table 2: Syringes Returned and Distributed by Zip Code - City for the Fairfield SSP Site by Butler County Visitors' Home Residence for November 2025

Zip Code - City	Syringes Returned	Syringes Distributed	Percent Returned
Hamilton			
45011	760	1,600	47.50%
45013	880	1,770	49.72%
45015	400	660	60.61%
Hamilton Total	2,040	4,030	50.62%
Middletown			
45042	330	270	122.22%
45044	540	900	60.00%
Middletown Total	870	1,170	74.36%
45014 - Fairfield	500	900	55.56%
45050 - Monroe	0	160	0.00%
45067 - Trenton	0	80	0.00%
Butler County Total	**3,410**	**6,340**	**53.79%**

Figure 3: Total Naloxone Kits and Fentanyl Test Strips Distributed at the Fairfield SSP Site for 2024 and 2025



Source: Butler County General Health District – Fairfield Syringe Service Program Site, Data obtained December 1, 2025, Data is provisional and subject to change

Smoking Complaint Spreadsheet

For November 2025

	Business Name	Date	Notice of Report	Dismissed	Notice of Violation (60 Days)	Letter of Warning (15 Days)	Civil Fine Letter	Violation Contested	Notice of Hearing	Additional Comments
1										
2										
3										

Notes:

No smoking complaints for the month of November 2025.

City of Middletown Health Department
November 2025

Vital Statistics	Monthly	YTD
Birth Certificates Filed	58	858
Death Certificates Filed	74	947
Birth Certificates Issued	237	4201
Death Certificates Issued	268	3638
Indigent Cremation Services	0	19
Deaths Filed		
Accidental		
Drug Overdose	0	18
Falls	0	8
Motor Vehicle	1	5
Exposure to Elements	0	0
Choking	0	0
Fire	0	0
Homicide	0	4
Suicide	0	4
COVID-19 Related Deaths	0	1
Could Not Be Determined	0	0
Pending Investigation	2	2

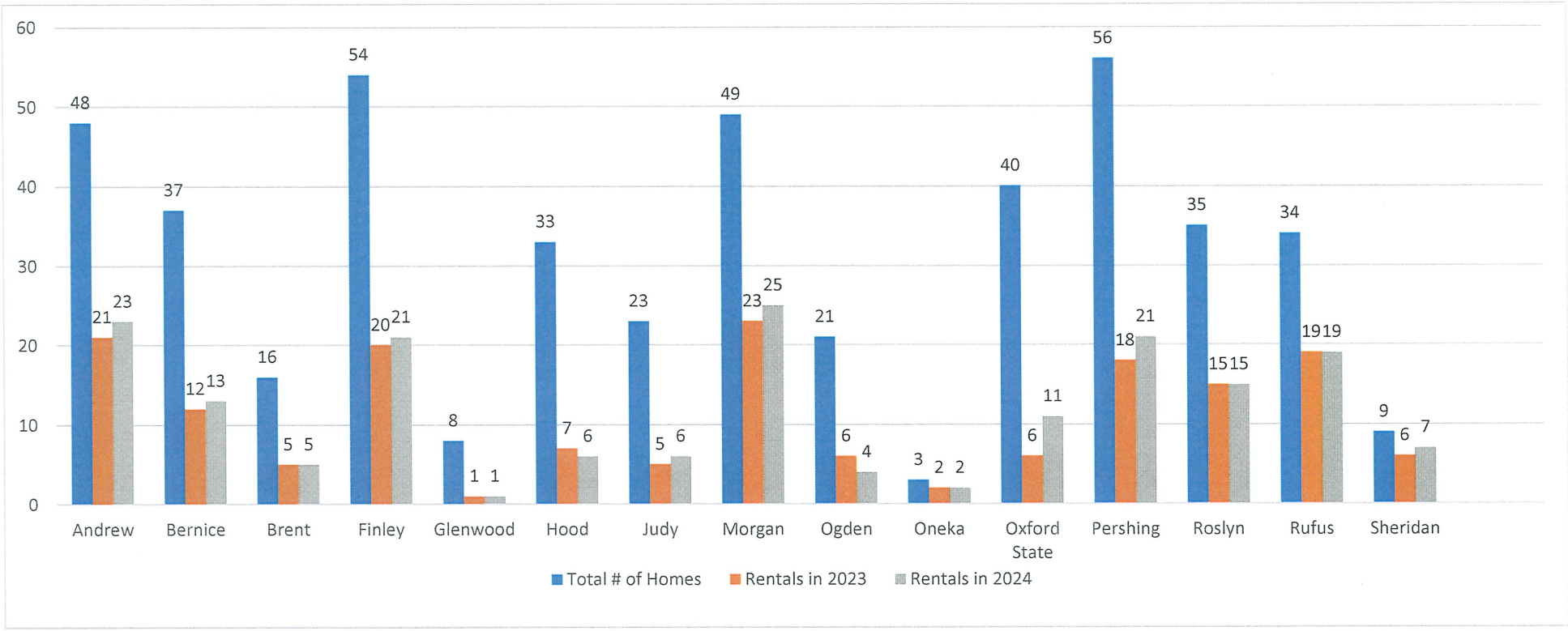
** Totals reflect City of Middletown residents that expired within city limits only

Environmental Inspections	Monthly	YTD
Food Service Operations (FSO)	38	468
Retail Food Establishments	13	184
Prelicense/Consultations	14	108
Sewage Inspections	29	488
School Inspections	8	40
Vending Locations	0	8
Temporary FSO/RFE	0	45
Mobile FSO/RFE	0	22
Complaints	5	52
Smoking Complaint Inspections	0	4
Swimming Pools	9	95
Tattoo	2	10
Temp Park/Park Camp	2	3
Jail Inspection	0	1
Site Visit (Septic)	1	2
T21 Inspections	8	84
Well Sealing Permits	2	4
Septic Abandonment	1	3
Plans Received	1	12

Level 1 Certification Training		
Number of Attendees	0	14

Animal Bites		
Dog	2	60
Cat	0	8
Bat	0	2

Year-Over-Year Amanda Area Rentals & Total Number of Homes



O & M Completed in 2025

Licensing Period 2020-2024

- Total Septic Systems in Middletown-700
- Total Septic Systems in Amanda Area-466
- Total # of Rentals in 2023-166
- Total # of Rentals in 2024-179
- Located 1 Gray Water Discharge
- Located 1 Failure
- Total Septic Systems Inspected-489

**Homeownership information was obtained from the Butler County Auditor's website.*

Health Commissioner November 2025

Summary

Cyber Incident August-present

Office programs and activities functioning approx. 50%-70%

- Still trying to re-install, re-create, and re-acclimate to new systems

Community Meetings:

Centerpoint Program Committee and Board Meeting

YWCA Committee and Board Meeting

YWCA Annual Meeting and Holiday Party-Basil Hamilton

- Supporting staff during this difficult time, speaking to the tenants re: counseling, and giving resources.

Retirement Event for Warren Co Health Commissioner Duane Stansbury

SW Ohio District Meeting

- Cyber Presentation
- Updates on SW HD's

Prevention Advocacy and Policy Coalition

Planning Commission Agenda

Middletown Connect

- Year-end meeting

Kyle Schwarber Rally

HC Planning Meetings

- HC Job Description
- Future Meetings

Met with Community Group re: next CEO Community Foundation

Community Activities:

Middletown Arts Center/Community Foundation Very Merry Mixer

- Guest Bartenders

Community Building Institute

- Ribbon Cutting -Open House 12/17

Walk with a Doc 12/13/25 9a

TSA introduces new $45 fee option for travelers without REAL ID starting February 1

Agency will refer passengers to the fee-based TSA "Confirm.ID" payment option if they do not present a valid, acceptable ID at checkpoints

National Press Release
Monday, December 1, 2025

WASHINGTON – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced today that it will refer all passengers who do not present an acceptable form of ID and still want to fly an option to pay a $45 fee to use a modernized alternative identity verification system, TSA Confirm.ID, to establish identity at security checkpoints beginning on February 1, 2026.

Travelers will be able to pay $45 to use TSA Confirm.ID for a 10-day travel period. TSA urges travelers who do not have a REAL ID to schedule an appointment at their local DMV to update their ID as soon as possible.

Acceptable forms of ID include:

- REAL ID-compliant driver's licenses or other state photo identity cards issued by Department of Motor Vehicles (or equivalent)
  - **If you are not sure if your ID complies with REAL ID, check with your state Department of Motor Vehicles.**
  - A temporary driver's license is not an acceptable form of identification.
- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) or Enhanced ID (EID)
- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- DHS trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- U.S. Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally recognized Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe, including Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs)
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport
- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

All travelers without an acceptable ID, including those who present a non-REAL ID-compliant state driver's license or ID, will be referred to the optional TSA Confirm.ID process for identity verification upon TSA check-in and prior to entering the security line. This process will differ airport to airport, and TSA is working with private industry to proactively offer online payment options prior to arrival at the airport.

The REAL ID law was signed more than 20 years ago, but previous presidential administrations failed to properly implement it. Under President Trump's leadership, the law was finally implemented and enforced by Secretary Kristi Noem as of May 7, 2025.

Currently, more than 94% of passengers already use their REAL ID or other acceptable forms of identification. TSA expects increased wait times for passengers who do not provide an acceptable ID.

"Identity verification is essential to traveler safety, because it keeps terrorists, criminals, and illegal aliens out of the skies and other domestic transportation systems such as rail," said Senior Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Administrator for TSA Adam Stahl. "The vast majority of travelers present acceptable identification like REAL IDs and passports, but we must ensure everyone who flies is who they say they are. Beginning February 1, travelers who do not present an acceptable form of ID at our security checkpoints and still want to fly can pay a $45 fee and undergo the TSA Confirm.ID process. This fee ensures the cost to cover verification of an insufficient ID will come from the traveler, not the taxpayer. The security of the traveling public is our top priority, so we urge all travelers to get a REAL ID or other acceptable form of ID as soon as possible to avoid delays and potentially miss flights."

TSA urges all travelers who do not have a REAL ID to pay the fee online before traveling. For passengers who arrive at the airport without paying the fee, information about how to pay for the TSA Confirm.ID option will be available at marked locations at or near the checkpoint in most airports. Travelers who undergo TSA Confirm.ID processing at an airport should expect delays.

TSA's list of acceptable forms of ID can be found at TSA.gov/travel/security-screening/identification.

For more information on REAL ID, please visit TSA.gov/real-id or text 275-872 ("AskTSA") or @AskTSA with questions.

###

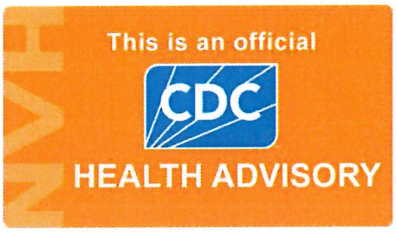
Health Alert Network (HAN)

First Reported Outbreak Caused by Marburg Virus in Ethiopia

DEC. 3, 2025

AT A GLANCE

- Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network
- December 3, 2025, 12:30 PM ET
- CDCHAN-00525



Summary

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Advisory to inform clinicians and health departments about a new outbreak of Marburg virus disease (MVD) in Ethiopia's South Ethiopia and Sidama regions. MVD is a severe illness that can be fatal.

No suspected, probable, or confirmed cases of MVD related to this outbreak have been reported in the United States or other countries outside of Ethiopia as of December 3, 2025. The risk of spread to the United States is considered low at this time; however, clinicians should be aware of the potential for imported cases. As a precaution, this health advisory summarizes CDC's recommendations about MVD case identification, testing, and biosafety considerations in clinical laboratories for U.S. health departments, clinical laboratories, and healthcare workers.

On November 17, 2025, CDC issued a Level 1 Travel Health Notice, advising people traveling to Ethiopia to practice usual precautions. The notice advises travelers to check their health for signs or symptoms of MVD while in the outbreak area and for 21 days after leaving and take appropriate actions (isolate, avoid travel, seek health care) if they become ill. Ethiopian national authorities are increasing response activities including screening, isolation of cases, contact tracing, airport exit screening, and public awareness campaigns to curb the spread of MVD. As of December 3, 2025, CDC is not recommending additional assessments or monitoring of travelers arriving from Ethiopia by the jurisdictional health departments.

Background

On November 14, 2025, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health declared an MVD outbreak in the country's South Ethiopia Regional State. This is the first reported outbreak of MVD in Ethiopia. As of December 3, 2025, Ethiopia has reported 13 laboratory confirmed cases, eight of which were fatal, in the country's South Ethiopia and Sidama regions. Additional cases may be retrospectively identified as the outbreak investigation progresses. Investigations are ongoing to determine timeline, transmission chains, and potential source of the outbreak.

Specimens collected from a cluster of patients with suspected viral hemorrhagic fever cases led to the confirmation of MVD by the National Reference Laboratory of the Ethiopian Public Health Institute. The Ethiopian Ministry of Health reported that genomic sequencing suggests this is the same strain of Marburg virus reported in previous outbreaks in other East African countries.

CDC is working with the Ethiopian health authorities to support the response to this outbreak, including providing technical expertise in surveillance, case investigation, contact tracing, laboratory testing, and response coordination.

The risk of spread to the United States is considered low as of December 3, 2025. As a precaution, CDC is working to increase awareness of the outbreak among U.S. travelers, public health agencies, laboratories, and healthcare professionals nationwide. **It is important for clinicians to obtain a detailed travel history from patients with an acute febrile illness, especially those who have been in affected areas of Ethiopia recently, while also ruling out more common causes of febrile illnesses. Early consideration of MVD in the differential diagnosis is essential to ensuring timely isolation and implementation of other precautions, informing public health, and providing prompt and appropriate care and diagnostics.**

Marburg virus disease

MVD is a rare but highly fatal viral hemorrhagic fever (VHF) caused by infection with one of two zoonotic viruses, Marburg virus or Ravn virus. Both Marburg virus and Ravn virus are within the virus family *Filoviridae*, which also includes Ebola virus.

The incubation period for MVD ranges from 2 to 21 days after exposure. A person infected with the Marburg virus is not considered contagious until after symptoms appear. Early "dry" symptoms include fever, aches, chest pains, and fatigue, and later "wet" symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and unexplained bleeding. MVD is spread through **contact** (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with the body fluids (e.g., blood, urine, saliva, sweat, feces, vomit, breast milk, amniotic fluid, or semen) of a person who is sick with or has died from MVD. People can also contract MVD if they have contact with infected animals, or through contact with objects like needles contaminated with the virus. **Marburg virus is not spread through airborne transmission**.

There are currently no Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved vaccines or treatments for MVD; however, investigational vaccines and treatments are in development. In the absence of early diagnosis and appropriate supportive care, MVD has a mortality rate of 23%–90%, depending on the virus strain and the level of case management. With early intensive supportive care and fluid replacement, mortality rates might be lowered.

CDC has developed recommendations for U.S.-based organizations (e.g., nongovernmental, faith-based, academic, or aid organizations) with staff working in affected areas.

Recommendations for Clinicians and Healthcare Facilities

- Be prepared to follow CDC's Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients in U.S. Hospitals who are Suspected or Confirmed to have Selected Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers.
- Systematically assess patients with exposure risk and compatible symptoms for the possibility of VHFs, including MVD through a clinical triage and evaluation process including a travel history.
  - Follow this job aid (PDF) for a step-by-step approach to evaluating a patient with a suspected special pathogen infection.
  - A travel flag in electronic health records is crucial for quickly identifying patients who have recently visited areas with VHF outbreaks, enabling timely detection and infection control.
- Include MVD in the differential diagnosis for an ill person who has compatible symptoms AND who has reported epidemiological risk factors, such as **one or more** of the following, within the 21 days before symptom onset:
  - Had direct contact with a symptomatic person with suspected or confirmed MVD, or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
  - Experienced a breach in infection prevention and control precautions that resulted in the potential for contact with body fluids of a patient with suspected or confirmed MVD.
  - Participated in any of the following activities while in an area with an active MVD outbreak:
    - Had contact with someone who was sick or died, or with any objects contaminated by their body fluids.
    - Attended or participated in funeral rituals, including preparing bodies for funeral or burial.
    - Visited or worked in a healthcare facility or laboratory.
    - Had contact with cave-dwelling bats or non-human primates (e.g., monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas).
    - Worked or spent time in a mine or cave.
- Consider and perform testing for more common diagnoses such as malaria, COVID-19, influenza, typhoid fever, or other common causes of gastrointestinal and febrile illnesses in an acutely ill patient with recent international travel and evaluate and manage appropriately.
- Know that patients with MVD may present with concurrent infections (e.g., co-infection with malaria), and the possibility of a concurrent infection should be considered if a patient has a clinical and epidemiologic history compatible with MVD. Presence in Ethiopia in the past 21 days **is not a reason to defer routine laboratory testing or other measures necessary for standard patient care.**
- Immediately **isolate and hospitalize** patients who have both an exposure risk AND any symptoms compatible with MVD in a healthcare facility until receiving a negative Marburg virus test result on a specimen collected ≥ 72 hours after symptom onset. If a specimen is collected <72 hours after symptom onset and is negative for MVD, the patient should remain isolated in the healthcare facility and another test should be performed on a new specimen taken ≥ 72 hours after symptom onset. Following the Bloodborne Pathogens standard, pursue routine laboratory testing to monitor the patient's clinical status and conduct diagnostic testing for other potential causes of the patient's illness while MVD testing is underway. **Do not delay MVD diagnostic testing while awaiting results of other diagnostic testing.**
  - Patients should remain in isolation at their presenting medical facility and cared for by trained personnel wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) while MVD test results are pending.
  - If a patient has a positive MVD test result, transfer them to a Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center or state-designated special pathogen treatment center, depending on the jurisdiction. The decision for patient transport should include CDC, the HHS

Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR), the National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC), state and local jurisdictions, and relevant healthcare facilities.

If MVD is suspected, contact your state, tribal, local or territorial (STLT) health department immediately (via the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist's 24-hour Epi-on-Call) and follow jurisdictional protocols for patient assessment. When a diagnosis of MVD is considered, health departments will consult with CDC and the clinical team to help coordinate care and testing for the patient and help ensure appropriate precautions are taken to prevent potential spread.

- Counsel patients with planned travel to an MVD outbreak-affected area on ways to prevent exposure during their travel. Prevention methods include:
  - Avoid contact with blood and body fluids (or with materials possibly contaminated with blood and body fluids) of people who are sick.
  - Avoid contact with semen from a person who recovered from MVD until testing shows that the virus is no longer in the semen.
  - Do not touch the body of someone who died from suspected or confirmed MVD including during funeral or burial practices.
  - Avoid contact with cave-dwelling bats, bat urine or droppings, forest antelopes, nonhuman primates, and blood, fluids, or raw meat from these or unknown animals.
  - Refrain from entering areas known to be inhabited by bats, such as mines or caves.
- If you are a healthcare worker traveling to Ethiopia for work in clinical settings, be aware of the potential increased risk of exposure to MVD, the importance of following recommended infection prevention and control precautions, and the need for monitoring yourself for symptoms of MVD after returning to the United States.

Recommendations for Public Health Departments

- Follow your established jurisdictional protocols about patient assessment to determine if testing for MVD is warranted for a patient with a clinical and epidemiologic history for MVD if identified in your jurisdiction.
- Coordinate patient management, specimen collection, and MVD testing with CDC, NETEC, and the clinical team.
- Contact CDC's Viral Special Pathogens Branch (VSPB) 24/7 for consultations about MVD or other VHFs. Call CDC's Emergency Operations Center at **770-488-7100** and request VSPB's on-call epidemiologist. For non-emergency inquiries, email spather@cdc.gov.
- For suspected cases, request testing for MVD and other VHFs from CDC (Atlanta, Georgia) or the Laboratory Response Network (LRN).
  - To date, 45 geographically diverse LRN laboratories can test for VHFs using the Biofire FilmArray or NGDS Warrior Panel Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel. In addition, 12 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Centers (RESPTC) have internal diagnostic capacity using the Biofire FilmArray NGDS Warrior Panel, Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel, or Biothreats-E [PDF]. Patient evaluation at such centers is coordinated through public health officials in coordination with RESPTC leadership.
  - The Biofire FilmArray Warrior Panel and Global Fever Special Pathogens Panel can detect orthomarburgviruses (Marburg and Ravn viruses) and orthoebolaviruses (Ebola, Sudan, Taï Forest, Bundibugyo, and Reston viruses), in addition to other high-consequence pathogens.
  - Per manufacturers' recommendations, results from these test kits are presumptive, and results require confirmatory testing, which can be performed at CDC.
- Be aware of CDC's Travel Health Notice for suspected MVD in Ethiopia and consider engaging travel health clinics or other clinical and public health partners to increase awareness about MVD.
- Review CDC's recommendations for Public Health Management of People with Suspected or Confirmed VHF or High-Risk Exposures.

Recommendations for Clinical Laboratory Biosafety

- Follow CDC's Standard Precautions for All Patient Care, which includes Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standard on Bloodborne Pathogens, and the Biosafety in Microbiology and Biomedical Laboratories Appendix N [PDF] to reduce the risk of laboratory-acquired illnesses from bloodborne pathogens, such as VHFs and other high-consequence diseases.
- Always handle blood and body fluids (e.g., urine, pleural fluid) as if they contain an unknown pathogen, taking the necessary precautions to avoid exposure.
- Be prepared to perform routine diagnostic testing that is critical to evaluating an ill traveler.
- Have a written Exposure Control Plan [PDF] in place that includes **conducting a risk assessment** to eliminate or minimize employees' risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials.
- Make recommended PPE available and train staff to properly don (put on) and doff (take off) their PPE.

- If a laboratory facility needs to ship specimens to another facility for testing, the facility should collaborate with public health authorities and follow appropriate packing and shipping requirements.

Recommendations for the Public

- Protect yourself and help prevent the spread of MVD when living in or traveling to a region where Marburg virus may be present or where an outbreak is occurring.
- In outbreak-affected areas, take the following actions to protect yourself:
  - Avoid contact with sick people who have symptoms such as fever, muscle pain, and rash.
  - Avoid contact with blood and other body fluids.
  - Avoid materials possibly contaminated with blood or other body fluids of people who are sick.
  - Avoid exposure to semen from men who have recovered from MVD until testing shows that the virus is no longer in the semen.
  - Do not participate in funeral or burial practices that involve touching the body of someone who has died.
  - Keep away from bats, forest antelopes, non-human primates (e.g., monkeys, chimpanzees, gorillas), and avoid contact with blood, body fluids, or raw meat from these or any unknown animals.
  - Do not enter areas where bats live, such as mines or caves.
- Monitor your health while you are in an area experiencing an MVD outbreak and continue to monitor for 21 days after returning.
  - If you develop symptoms of MVD during this time, isolate (separate) yourself immediately from others, do not travel, and contact local health authorities or a healthcare facility for advice.
  - Before you enter a healthcare facility, alert the healthcare providers of your recent presence in an MVD-affected area.

For More Information

General Marburg Information

- About Marburg Disease | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- History of Marburg Disease Outbreaks | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Marburg in Ethiopia - Level 1 - Practice Usual Precautions - Travel Health Notices | Travelers' Health | CDC
- Travelers' Health | CDC

Clinician Resources

- Clinical Overview of Marburg Virus Disease | Marburg | CDC
- Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) 24-hour Epi-on-Call
- Post-Travel Evaluation to Rule Out Viral Special Pathogen Infection | Yellow Book | CDC
- Recommendations for Organizations Sending U.S.-based Personnel to Areas with VHF Outbreaks | Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs) | CDC
- National Emerging Special Pathogens Training and Education Center (NETEC) Resource Library

Non-U.S. Healthcare Settings

- Preparing Your Facility for Identification of Potential MVD Patients | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Preventing MVD from Entering Your Healthcare Facility | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Healthcare Worker and Inpatient Monitoring| Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Environmental Cleaning and Waste Management | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Hand Hygiene | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection| Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- PPE Part 1: What, When, and Why to Use PPE | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- PPE Part 2: Putting on and Taking Off PPE | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Waste Management Part 1: The Waste Management Process | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC

- Waste Management Part 2: Final Waste Disposal | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC
- Injection Safety | Marburg Virus Disease | CDC

U.S. Public Health Departments

Public Health Management of People with Suspected or Confirmed VHF or High-Risk Exposures | CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HAN message types

- **Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance about a public health incident.
- **Health Advisory:** Provides important information about a public health incident.
- **Health Update:** Provides updated information about a public health incident.

###

This message was distributed to state and local health officers, state and local epidemiologists, state and local laboratory directors, public information officers, HAN coordinators, and clinician organizations.

###

SOURCES

CONTENT SOURCE:
Office of Emergency Risk Communication (OERC)

Where to find food pantries, and how to help them

BUTLER COUNTY



Tova Murray moves canned vegetables around the warehouse at Shared Harvest Foodbank in Fairfield on Tuesday. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITER

With the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits cut Saturday, more Butler County residents may need to rely on food pantries.

Food pantries and food banks are considered the last line of defense against hunger, and with SNAP benefits cut due to the federal government shutdown, more residents will turn to them.

That also means pantries and food banks will need more support from the public.

Here is a list of organizations that can offer help, and will need help.

FOOD PANTRIES

Fairfield

Fairfield Food Pantry

Address: 78 Donald Drive, Serves: Fairfield School District Contact: 513-829-9047; fairfieldfoodpantry.org

Fairfield Twp.

Princeton Pike

COG-West Address: 1815 Tuley Road, Fairfield Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-892-2768

Hamilton

Allison Avenue Baptist

Address: 5915 Allison Ave., Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-868-0641; aabc@cinci.rr.com

Christian Family Center

Address: 601 Heaton St., Hamilton

Serves: ZIP code of 45011

Contact: 513-227-3169

Hallelujah Nepali Ministry

Address: 1493 Parrish Ave., Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 404-345-5136

House of Deliverance Worship Center

Address: 333 South 2nd St., Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-884-8300

New Life Mission Inc.

Address: 415 Henry Street, Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-896-9800; missionhamilton.org

New Life Vineyard Church

Address: 1701 Princeton Road, Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 833-977-9700 office.nlv@gmail.com

Open Door Pantry

Address: 800 South Front St., Hamilton

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-868-3276 opendoorfoodpantry.org

Salvation Army

Address: 235 Ludlow St.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-863-1445; easternusa.

salvationarmy. org/southwestohio/hamilton

Middletown Oaks Community Church

Address: 103 McKnight Dr., Middletown

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-810-3677 theoakscommunitychurch.org/

food-pantry Poasttown First Church of God

Address: 6376 Germantown Road, Middletown

Serves: Middletown, Trenton and Seven Mile

Contact: 513-804-4344 poasttownfcog@gmail.com

Salvation Army

Address: 1914 First Ave., Middletown

Serves: Middletown, Monroe and Trenton

Contact: 513-423-9452, easternusa.salvationarmy.
org/southwestohio/middletown St. Vincent de Paul

Contact: 24 Baltimore Street, Middletown

Serves: ZIP codes of 45042, 45044, 45050 and 45067

Contact: 513-424-1985 Towne Boulevard Church of God

Address: 3722 Towne Boulevard, Middletown

Serves: ZIP codes of 45042, 45044 and 45005

Contact: 513-422-1021; towne.church/foodpantry/

New Miami The Village Food Pantry

Address: 617-B Riverside Drive, New Miami

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-907-7481; info@villagefoodpantry.com

Oxford Talawanda Oxford Pantry & Social Services

Address: 5445 College Corner Pike, Oxford

Serves: Talawanda School District

Contact: 513-523-5859; topss.org

Trenton/Edgewood Edgewood Area Ministerial Association

Address: 509 W. State St., Trenton

Serves: Edgewood School District

Contact: 513-468-0039; edgewoodma.com

West Chester Twp.

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Address: 9180 Cincinnati Columbus Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-531-1888; communications@zgmstaff.org; zionglobalministries.org/

blessed-to-be-a-blessingpantry-closet Faith Community United Methodist

Address: 8230 Cox Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-777-9533; faithcommunityumc.org/ communityoutreach/

food-pantry Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati

Address: 8092 Plantation Drive, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-757-9140; icgc. us/social-services-home LifeChurch

Address: 8480 Cincinnati-Columbus Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-777-4771; lifechurchwestchester.com/ lifechurchpantry
Princeton Pike Church of God

Address: 6101 Princeton Glendale Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County

Contact: 513-600-8140 ppcog.com/

foodpantry Reach Out Lakota

Address: 6561 Station Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: Lakota School District Contact: 513-779-7515 reachoutlakota.org

West Chester Nazarene Church

Address: 7951 Tylersville Road, West Chester Twp.

Serves: All of Butler County Contact: 513-777-6300; wcn.church/food-clothing-pantry

SOUP KITCHENS AND SHELTERS

New Life Mission Inc.

Address: 415 Henry Street, Hamilton

Hours: Noon to 1:30 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays (open to the public)

Contact: 513-896-9800; missionhamilton.org

First United Methodist Church

(in partnership with Princeton Pike Church of God)

Address: 225 Ludlow Street, Hamilton

Hours: 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

fourth Saturday of the month (open to the public)

Contact: 513-867-1995 Pike City Church

Address: 412 S. Front St., Hamilton

Hours: 12:15 to 2 p.m. Sundays, 6 to 7 p.m. last Monday of the month (open to the public)

Contact: 513-867-1995 Salvation Army

Address: 235 Ludlow St., Hamilton Hours: 11 a.m. to noon, Fridays

(open to the public)

Contact: 513-863-1445; easternusa.

salvationarmy. org/southwestohio/hamilton

Salvation Army

Address: 1914 First Ave., Middletown Hours: 11 a.m. to noon, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays (open to the public)

Contact: 513-423-9452, easternusa.salvationarmy. org/southwestohio/middletown Feed the Hungry

Address: 834 Yankee

Road Hours: Breakfast 8 to 10 a.m. and

dinner. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sundays to Thursdays (dine-in only)

Contact: 513-423-0433 feedthehungryproject@ gmail.com

Some Head Start preschools close as shutdown continues

CONTINUING COVERAGE



Students help put away supplies at the Head Start program run by Easterseals, which gets about a third of its funding from the federal government, in Miami on Jan. 29. Dozens of Head Start centers nationwide are struggling to stay open or closing indefinitely due to the ongoing federal shutdown. REBECCA BLACKWELL / AP

BY MORIAH BALINGIT, MAKIYA SEMINERA AND HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The government shutdown is triggering a wave of closures of Head Start centers, leaving working parents scrambling for child care and shutting some of the nation's neediest children out of preschool.

Dozens of centers are missing out on federal grant payments that were due to arrive Nov. 1. Some say they'll close indefinitely, while others are staying afloat with emergency funding from local governments and school districts. The closures mean Head Start students — who come from low-income households, are homeless or are in foster care — are missing out on preschool, where they are fed two meals a day and receive therapy vital to their development.

"Children love school, and the fact that they can't go is breaking their hearts," said Sarah Sloan, who oversees small-town Head Start centers in Scioto County, Ohio. Staff told families they planned to close Monday.

"It's hampering our families' ability to put food on the table and to know that their children are safe during the day."

A half-dozen Head Start programs never received grants that were anticipated in October, but there are now 140 programs that have not received their annual infusion of federal funding.

All told, the programs have capacity to assist 65,000 preschoolers and expectant parents.

Among the preschools closing as of Monday are 24 Migrant and Seasonal Head Start centers spread across five states. Those centers, created to assist the children of migrant farmworkers, typically operate on 10- to 12-hour days to accommodate the long hours parents work on farms.

Children attending the centers in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama and Oklahoma recently came home with fliers warning of possible closures, along with other parent notifications.

Those centers serving more than 1,100 children will now remain closed until the shutdown ends, said East Coast Migrant Head Start Project CEO Javier Gonzalez.

About 900 staff members across the centers also have been furloughed.

In the absence of other options for child care, some parents' only option may be to bring their young child to the fields where they work, Gonzalez said.

Pause in food aid compounds struggles for Head Start families

Many of the families that qualify for the federal preschool program also depend on food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as SNAP or food stamps. That program also was on track to run dry of money due to the shutdown, although a pair of federal judges on Friday ordered the Trump administration to keep the program running with emergency reserve funds.

That means many Head Start families have been worried about food aid, along with the child care they rely on to make ends meet. A day without child care means a day without work for many parents — and a day without pay.

In Kansas City, Missouri, Jhanee Hunt teaches toddlers at a Head Start site, the Emmanuel Family and Child Development Center, where her 6-month-old son is cared for in another classroom.

The center said it can scrape up enough money to stay open for a few weeks, but the money won't last much beyond November.

At dropoff, she said, parents often are wearing uniforms for fast food restaurants like Wendy's and McDonald's.

Some work as certified nurse assistants in nursing homes.

None have much extra money.

The most urgent concern right now is food, she said.

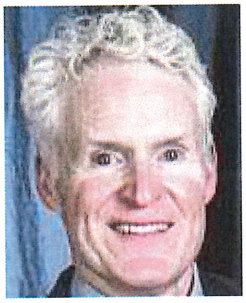
“A lot of the parents, they’re, you know, going around trying to find food pantries,” she said. “A parent actually asked me, do I know a food pantry?”

Mulligan, Lolli win Middletown city council seats

Lolli elected to first full term; Mulligan elected to third term.



Paul Lolli



Joe Mulligan



Poll workers check in voters at the polling location in the gymnasium of Creekview Elementary School on Tuesday. Middletown voters elected Paul Lolli and Joe Mulligan to city council. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Candidates Joe Mulligan and Paul Lolli have won seats on Middletown city council, according to unofficial voting results Tuesday evening.

With all 36 Butler County precincts reporting, Mulligan won 31.6% of the vote, with Lolli following behind at 26.12%.

Candidates Larri Silas and Scotty Robertson rounded out the race with 21.42% and 20.86% of the vote respectively.

Counts in Warren County's five precincts had Mulligan with 36.24% of the vote and Lolli with 25.29%. Robertson and Silas had 21.61% and 16.86% respectively.

"It's an honor ... for the voters of Middletown to have selected me for a third term on council," Mulligan told Journal-News. "I'm honored and humbled."

Mulligan previously served two terms on council (2012-2016; 2018-2022).

"I'm excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for Middletown," he said. "This is a point in time where we have financial resources to reinvest and make sure that we make solid investments in our capital and our personnel and retain and attract the best talent."

He thanked outgoing Councilman Paul Horn for his service to the city. Horn was appointed in December 2023 to finish former Councilman Rodney Muterspaw's unfinished term. Horn did not seek election this year.

When Mulligan is back on council in January, he said his first focus is "building consensus" during strategic planning with fellow council members.

Lolli told the Journal-News he said he was "so appreciative" of Middletown voters "having confidence in me to continue."

Lolli was appointed to city council in October 2024 following the resignation of Councilman Zack Ferrell.

Public safety and health, economic development and city revitalization will be Lolli's top focuses as he embarks on a full four-year term.

Lolli previously worked as city manager and fire chief for Middletown.

Both Mulligan and Lolli gave a nod to Robertson and Silas for running strong campaigns and "stepping up to the plate."

Veterans board continues to expand what it offers

Suicide prevention, outreach clinic among services.



The Butler County Veterans Memorial at Veterans Park in Hamilton was rededicated on Sept. 28. The memorial is in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the nation. It represents 747 Butler County residents who left for war and did not return home. THOMAS PATE / NARRATUS MEDIA

BY DENISE G. CALLAHAN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Butler County Veterans Service Commission continues to find new ways to provide services to those who risked their lives in service to their country.

While the board is not affiliated with the Department of Veterans Affairs — it is an arm of county government — it offers services such as emergency cash, assistance for veterans navigating the Veterans Affairs system, transportation to medical appointments, and help finding local services for everything from legal issues to homelessness and suicide prevention.

The 2024 Annual Report shows from 2019 through last year the veteran population has declined from 21,467 to 19,720 while federal dollars spent supporting local veterans has jumped more than 50% from $173 million to $260 million.

"This sharp growth stands in contrast to a nearly 10 percent decline in the local veteran population during the same period, demonstrating that while the number of veterans is shrinking, their needs are intensifying," the report reads. "The increase is driven by higher health care utilization, expanded compensation and pension benefits, and the complex needs of an aging veteran community."

The report notes for every dollar the veterans board spends helping their clients, veterans reap $103 in benefits.

The largest outlay of federal dollars in the county for veterans last year went for medical care at $128.4 million. Compensation and pensions came in second at $112.8 million.

The local veterans board uses county general fund dollars to provide services such as transportation, emergency cash and other benefits. The state legislature carved a percentage out of county general funds to help veterans.

This year the veterans board's available share is roughly $6.15 million and they have budgeted $4 million for next year.

The annual report shows the board budgeted $3.6 million last year and actually spent $2.5 million, $1.3 million was to pay staff and run the

office. There are five appointed commissioners and 13 employees.

During the board's budget hearing with the commissioners, Executive Director Mike Farmer said they are swamped and understaffed but have no space to expand.

The commissioners are working on a massive space reutilization plan and the veterans board is included, but it will likely be 2027 before they can move and grow.

The board spent $688,027 on direct veteran assistance, such as transportation and food and other expenses.

The largest chunk was $132,763 to help vets with housing costs, $80,194 for food and hygiene, $66,480 for utilities and some smaller allocations. The report shows the majority of the financial assistance applications were from Hamilton and Middletown, wheremost vets live.

Getting the word out that help is available through advertising and outreach efforts amounted to $398,481 last year.

Suicide prevention has become a big focus. There have been 37 confirmed suicides this year and 13 were veterans, according to the county coroner's office.

"Our big push is suicide prevention," Commission President Bruce Jones told the Journal-News. "We're already way past what we had last year for suicides in the county. You figure we're 5% of the county but 40% of the suicides, that's not good odds."

Farmer said they have a lot of "community collaborations" going on with the mental health board, General Health District and other partners and providers "to try to get to the bottom of that and to break down some of the stigma, the treatment, the access to care around mental health."

They also started a homelessness initiative this year, and Farmer said they housed nine people and 15 are in or have gone through the

program.

They have had a dental plan for five years — only about one out of 19 veterans is eligible for dental services with the VA — but until now it only covered an annualexam, X-rays and cleaning.

Next year, with a new Primary Health Solutions contract — the board budgeted $125,000 for the program — they can cover extractions, bridges, partials, dentures and more.

Another major development on the horizon for veterans is a brand-new Veterans Administration community-based outreach clinic (CBOC) coming to Hamilton-Mason Road, just east of Bethesda Butler Hospital in Hamilton.

The new clinic will replace the Erie Boulevard location but Farmer said the VA is being "tight-lipped" about the exact details until the federal government shutdown ends.

"We're getting a brandnew CBOC and it'll be really nice," Jones said. "They'll have expanded things they can do that they aren't able to do in the small space they're in now. It'll be a lot like the CBOC in Middletown, they can do eyes, ears, X-rays they can do just about anything there."

Ohio SNAP recipients may receive partial benefits this week

Assistance may arrive today, but payments not guaranteed.



State officials said Monday all recipients who've not yet received their benefit will begin receiving their partial November benefit this week. STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH / AP

BY SYDNEY DAWES STAFF WRITER

Partial payments to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients are expected to come out as early as today, according to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

These payments could be upto 65% of a household's typical maximum

allotment.

The state's announcement Monday about SNAP benefits follows new federal guidance from the U.S.

Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service, which oversees the federally funded program formerly known as food stamps.

Federal guidance was updated following federal court action over the weekend. The federal government instructed OD JFS to reduce the maximum amount each household can receive in November by 35% and to recalculate each household's payment based on that new maximum amount.

State officials said Monday that all recipients who've not yet received their November benefit, as well as individuals who were approved for, but not paid benefits in October, will begin receiving their partial November benefit this week.

But the payments still were not guaranteed as of press time. The Trump administration appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday to keep payments frozen until the federal shutdown officially ends. The court was scheduled to rule on the case Tuesday after this news outlet's deadline.

SNAP benefits were paused Nov. 1. Before the federal shutdown, approximately 1.4 million Ohioans received about $264 million in food benefits from SNAP each month. The distribution of those benefits was staggered through the 20th of each month.

In Montgomery County, more than 83,000 residents rely on SNAP — the fourth-highest recipient total in the state as of October.

Neighboring Greene County has 14,822 residents enrolled. In Clark County, there are 23,661 residents on SNAP, while Butler County has reported 40,064.

Recipients receive benefits through the Ohio Direction, or EBT, card. The exact amount each household will receive is based on factors such as gross and net income and allowable deductions such as housing and medical costs, according to a state press release.

But under the revised federal calculations, nearly all recipients will receive less than 65% of their normal benefit. Some recipients, particularly those whose earnings place the household near the cutoff for eligibility, may receive no benefits this week under the revised calculation.

Previous federal guidance suggested partial payments could be roughly half a household's typical maximum allotment.

An official notice explaining each household's specific benefit change will be issued, according to state officials.

The Trump administration has been pushing the U.S. Supreme Court to allow payments in the SNAP federal food aid program to remain frozen while the government is shut down. Lower courts have ruled that the government must keep full payments flowing, but the Trump administration is asking the Supreme Court to keep them frozen for now.

After the federal government shutdown ends, additional federal guidance will be needed to determine how to handle the difference between what would ordinarily be issued for the month and what is being issued this week, state officials said.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order directing the state job and family services department to direct up to $25 million to food assistance efforts.

This includes $7 million to regional food banks using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds and another $18 million in emergency relief benefits to more than 63,000 Ohio Works First recipients.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Holiday Whopla is now Reimagine Middletown

Annual downtown holiday celebration has begun; ice rink open.



Braden Guyler, 17, left, and Suzy Schiml, 17, skate on opening day of the Reimagine Middletown ice rink Monday. The ice rink is open now through Jan. 11. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

As of this week, Middletonians can lace up their skates at the Reimagine Ice Rink at 39 N. Broad St.

Reimagine Middletown — previously known as Middletown Holiday Whopla — opened its ice rink to skaters on Monday.

Avinne Kiser, board chair and founder of Reimagine Middletown, said the team is "excited" about "having all of the community be able to come out and skate again and see everybody's smiling faces."

Being a "destination" to drive traffic to downtown Middletown and small businesses is also a goal of the ice rink.

"(Visitors) can be here for a long-time experience (to see) all that the city has to offer," Kiser said. "So that's always an exciting thing for me when this starts."

Braden Guyler, who has been a youth board member for Reimagine Middletown for three years, was skating on the rink's opening night Monday.

Guyler helps with community outreach, marketing and promotions.

"I absolutely love every bit of it," he said. "It's just been amazing seeing the impact this has on the community."

Daily admission is $12 per person for unlimited skating. Groups of over 10 can get in for $8 per person. Skate aids can be rented for $10 for 30 minutes.

New this year, there is a student reward promo: Students with an "A" on their October report card can get a buy one, get one free ticket. This promo is redeemable once during the month of November.

On Wednesday theme nights, people dressed in themed attire can enjoy half-price tickets at $6.

Themes are Thanksgiving (Nov. 26), Ugly Sweater (Dec. 3), Grinch (Dec. 10), Christmas Movie (Dec. 17), New Year's Party (Dec. 31) and Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce (Jan. 7).

There are also free skating lessons Saturdays and Sundays in two sessions (2-2:30 p.m. and 2:30-3 p.m.), with purchase of a skating ticket. Character skate experiences are also planned.

The skate rink will be open Monday through Sunday — except for Thanksgiving and Christmas Day — until Jan. 11.

More information can be find at tinyurl.com/ReimagineFacebook and tinyurl. com/ReimagineInsta.

Contact this reporter at 1-859-653-3849 or email bryn.dippold@coxinc.com.

REIMAGINE MIDDLETOWN ICE RINK HOURS

From Monday until Dec. 18 and Jan. 5 until Jan. 11:

- 2-8:30 p.m. Sunday
- 4:30-8 p.m. Monday - Thursday
- 4:30-10 p.m. Friday
- Noon to 10 p.m. Saturday

Week of Thanksgiving, Nov. 23 to Nov. 26:

- 2-8:30 p.m. From Dec. 19 until Jan. 4:
- 2-8:30 p.m. Sunday
- Noon to 9 p.m.

Monday through Thursday

- Noon to 10 p.m. Friday
- Noon to 10 p.m.

Saturday Holiday hours:

- Thanksgiving: Closed
- Black Friday: 2-10 p.m.
- Christmas Eve: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Christmas Day: Closed
- New Year's Eve: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- New Year's Day: 2-8 p.m.

Hamilton fire station 1st in county to add baby box

Safety incubator for surrendered newborns is 20th in state of Ohio.



Hamilton dedicated Butler County's first Safe Haven Baby Box on Tuesday afternoon at the Fire Station 22 on Pershing Avenue. The box is designed to allow mothers to anonymously place a newborn baby 30 days or younger in the incubator. Fire personnel are notified through a silent alarm. Mothers can still surrender a baby at any hospital, fire department or police station under Ohio's Safe Haven law. Pictured is the interior of the box were firefighters and paramedics have access to the baby. MICHAEL D. PITMAN/STAFF



Monica Kelsey, of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, the organization named for Ohio's Safe Haven lawn, receives a proclamation on Tuesday afternoon from Hamilton Mayor Pat Moeller on the organization's 20th baby box in Ohio. Hamilton dedicated Butler County's first Safe Haven Baby Box at the Fire Station 22 on Pershing Avenue. The box is designed to allow mothers to anonymously place a newborn baby 30 days or younger in the incubator. Fire personnel are notified through a silent alarm. Mothers can still surrender a baby at any hospital, fire department or police station under Ohio's Safe Haven law. MICHAEL D. PITMAN/STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITER

Ohio's 20th Safe Haven Baby Box was installed in Hamilton, which the city's mayor said "results in safer newborns."

Tuesday afternoon, city leaders and state and federal officials attended the dedication of the baby box, also known as newborn safety incubators, at Hamilton Fire Station 22, 77 Pershing Ave.

It's the 395th box in the United States from the Safe Haven organization, whose founder, Monica Kelsey, said had helped 71 newborns.

The Hamilton baby box is the first in Butler County.

She said while Ohio's law gives mothers the option to surrender a newborn 30 days or younger to law enforcement, hospitals or an emergency service organization, such as a fire department.

"What we're doing here today is giving a last-resort option for parents if they can't walk into this facility and hand their child to a person," Kelsey said.

Every state has some form of a Safe Haven law. In Ohio, the law was enacted about 25 years ago.

In 2017, the state amended its Safe Haven laws to include newborn safety incubators, which Kelsey said now gives mothers "100% anonymity if they so choose."

The baby boxes are regulated by the state, and each location must be registered through the Ohio Department of Health. Registrations must be renewed every three years.

While Safe Haven Baby Boxes is an organization working to install these newborn safety incubators, it is not the only company that can do so, according to the Ohio Department of Health.

Ohio Department of Health spokesman Ken Gordon said there are 20 newborn safety incubators registered in Ohio, though the department does not track the manufacturer, only that they're installed. The department also does not track how many babies have been delivered to an NSI.

Gordon said there are two steps that require registration. Individuals who plan to install a box need to register with the Ohio Department of Health prior to the installation. In addition, each law enforcement agency, hospital, or emergency medical service that has an NSI must register prior to the device being used.

More information on state requirements and registration forms can be found at odh.ohio. gov.

Thus far, according to media reports and Kelsey, two babies have been surrendered in Ohio through a Safe Haven Baby Box.

One baby was surrendered in December at Lebanon Fire Station on North Broadway.

A few months ago, a baby was surrendered at the box at the Union Twp. fire station in Clermont County, according to local media reports.

Mayor Pat Moeller called it "a great project," which the results "puts the child and the mother both in a better place."

"This project reflects the heart and beliefs of all the people who put this together," he said.

Hamilton City Councilmember Michael Ryan said this box is the "opening of a door. A door to life, to love and a hopeful future."

"It represents compassion, care and our shared commitment to protecting the most vulnerable among us," he said. "It's a promise that in Butler County and in Hamilton, we will always be a voice for the voiceless."

The newborn is eventually placed with a public children's services agency, such as Butler County Children Services. Expectations are outlined in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio Administrative Code once they take custody of the child.

"Giving parents a chance to safely surrender a child to allow for others to take care of the child is the goal of the newborn safety incubators," said Jodi Trimble, spokesperson for the Ohio Department of Children and Youth. "The incubators provide a way for parents to surrender an infant safely while promoting anonymity the statute requires."

Local families receiving partial SNAP benefits

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN



Food stamp funds are deposited onto Ohio Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards, or Ohio Direction Cards, which are accepted at many stores across the region. CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY SYDNEY DAWES STAFF WRITER

Local residents who received their partial food assistance payments Wednesday said they felt both surprised and relieved by payments that appeared on their EBT cards.

"I'm just so grateful," said Elizabeth McConehea, a mother of two living in Fairborn.

"I've been so stressed. I've just been giving up things for myself, always thinking about my kids."

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced earlier this week that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments would go out to residents as soon as today.

SNAP was disrupted at the start of November amid the government shutdown.

Approximately 1.4 million Ohioans receive a total of $264 million in food benefits from SNAP each month.

The average monthly SNAP benefit per person is about $190, according to the state.

The Dayton Daily News, Journal-News and Springfield News-Sun asked community members if they had received any SNAP payments, and several residents confirmed money had hit their EBT cards.

McConehea said she received her partial SNAP allotment — about $200 less than what she usually receives — on Wednesday.

"Any little bit helps," she said.

The past few weeks have been difficult for her family, McConehea said. The cost of food prices her out of certain items, but some expensive supplies her family cannot go without — cans of formula for her 3-monthold, for example.

"It's just crazy how groceries have went up over the last few years," she said.

In Montgomery County, more than 83,000 residents rely on SNAP — the fourth-highest recipient total in the state as of October.

Neighboring Greene County has 14,822 residents enrolled. In Clark County, there are 23,661 residents on SNAP, while Butler County has reported 40,064.

Springfield resident Elaine Carey said she and other retirees who live on fixed incomes struggle to pay for their groceries on top of their house payments, utilities, insurance and more. Her diabetes also limits what she can get from a grocery store.

"It's just ridiculous," she said.

The SNAP payment Carey received on Wednesday was roughly $100 short of what she usually receives on her EBT card. And she said she's worried she won't be able to spread that payment through the end of November.

She said she was surprised to see a payment come to her EBT card on Wednesday, as announcements about SNAP have changed rapidly.

President Donald Trump said it would not issue payments to SNAP recipients until the federal government reopens, but federal judges ruled the government must send out payments to residents. First partial, but later full.

The Trump administration has pushed the U.S. Supreme Court to allow full payments to remain frozen while the government is shut down. The nation's highest court on Tuesday extended a temporary pause on full payments.

Carey said she isn't sure when she'll see a full payment, but she doesn't feel like her government officials "care about the little people."

"They continue to be paid, build ballrooms and eat while other people are hungry," she said.

Construction on housing units in Middletown delayed

Second time for delay since approval in 2022.



The development is on two parcels of land in Warren County at the northwest corner of Market Avenue and Union Road across from Atrium Medical Center. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Construction on hundreds of housing units in Middletown originally approved by planning commission in November 2022 has been delayed for the second time.

The development is on two parcels of land in Warren County at the northwest corner of Market Avenue and Union Road across from Atrium Medical Center. The land was rezoned to a planned unit of development for the project, which is called Atticus.

The initial plan called for 10 buildings each with 24 units and a portion for commercial development on 12.6 acres.

A reconfigured plan presented to council in January called for nine buildings with 314 units of varying building heights ranging from three to four stories.

In the October planning commission meeting, owner Jordan Wallace of Wallace Construction Management requested an additional one-year extension of approval of the final development plan, which will allow for a total of four years before development begins.

This was the second request for an extension, which is the max amount allowed to be approved by planning commission. The first extension was approved in November 2024.

The most recent extension was requested by Wallace to "improve site conditions with fulfilling the request for additionally approved multifamily dwelling units," according to city documents.

Planning commission approved the extension Oct. 8.

In November's meeting, the project was back before planning commission with a site plan amendment, which will rearrange the proposed building and construct a public street in the development, according to city documents.

Approval of this amendment will not impact the number of units proposed if approved by planning commission, according to City Planner Claire Fetters-Binegar.

The development is proposed for a total of 14.367 acres to accommodate the multi-family residential use and will include a walking trail and dog park.

Wallace told council in January he is willing to make a $58 million investment in the city that will bring much needed quality housing to Middletown.

Writer Lauren Pack contributed to this report.

Development proposed for Manchester Inn, Sonshine lot

City to hold town hall at 4 p.m. Dec. 2.



CMC Properties could place a mixed-use development on the site of the Manchester Inn and Sonshine buildings, which would require both structures be demolished.

NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

11/21



Exterior stone fixtures are planned to be included on the proposed mixed-use development from CMC Properties. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

A local developer is proposing a mixed-use development on the site of the historic Manchester Inn and Sonshine buildings in downtown Middletown, which would require both buildings be demolished.

CMC Properties, based out of Blue Ash, was the lone respondent to the city's request for developers in October, and its proposal details plans for a development including apartments and a 10,000-15,000-square-foot street-level commercial building — dubbed "The Manchester."

The facade would be red brick and is planned to incorporate stone exterior and interior fixtures from the Manchester Inn meant to honor the

city's historic character.

Jim Cohen, president of CMC Properties, and Pete Montgomery, project manager, said the company was interested in putting a development in Middletown years ago, and now, "The timing is right."

"Our expertise is taking towns that have been passed over in many cases for decades and reinvigorating them," Cohen said.

Montgomery, who will oversee the development, has goals of putting momand-pop restaurants and retail spaces in the streetlevel commercial development, not chains.

Joshua Smith, president and CEO of Butler County Finance Authority, assisted the city with identifying a developer.

"In my mind, every building that we went through should be preserved," Smith said. These buildings included the Manchester and Sonshine buildings, Goetz Tower, the First National Bank building and the Cincinnati State building.

"After a period of time, and multiple developers coming through, the one thing that became more clear to me was the Manchester, even though it technically could be saved ... it became more of a question of how long it would take to actually redevelop it," he said.

He said after that time there could be additional "collateral damage" to other buildings downtown.

"In my opinion ... you have to start with something that yields a significant amount of residents in the downtown," Smith said.

He said he hopes the demolition of the Manchester Inn and Sonshine building and redevelopment of the 3-acre site will create the "momentum" to bring in other developers for the First National Bank building, Goetz Tower, the Cincinnati State building and further revitalization of the Sorg Opera House.

Councilman Paul Horn said, "It's great to have the memories, but we also need to move forward with this. This is what is the future."

Councilwoman Jennifer Carter wasn't as convinced, expressing concerns of displacing poorer residents, other needed developments along North Verity Parkway, lack of grocery stores and low-income housing.

"I see this not benefiting a lot of people who live in Middletown today," Carter said.

Smith said focusing on the downtown first can lead to opportunities for development in adjacent areas.

Councilman Paul Lolli and Mayor Elizabeth Slamka expressed support for the project, saying they were "encouraged" by the proposal.

"As much as I wish we could save The Manchester ... if that is not possible, this project is so exciting," Slamka said.

Vice Mayor Steve West was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

Sam Ashworth, a longtime trustee of Middletown Historical Society, said he is in support of the project "on the face of it" because of the incorporation of Manchester Inn elements and CMC Properties' track record of developments in Hamilton and surrounding communities.

"I'm in favor of it," he said.

"I want to look at some of the real details and have some more conservations, and I think (CMC is) more than willing to do that."

"One thing like this can spark the entire (downtown) revitalization, and that's what I think and I hope will happen."

No plans have been set regarding demolition of any downtown building, no contracts have been entered into and no vote was taken on the

proposal.

A town hall is planned for the next council meeting on Dec. 2 that will start at 4 p.m. Residents will get the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns and discuss the proposed development.

A survey on the fate of the Manchester and Sonshine buildings in August garnered 572 responses, with 50.3 percent in support of preservation and 53.1 percent in support of demolition.

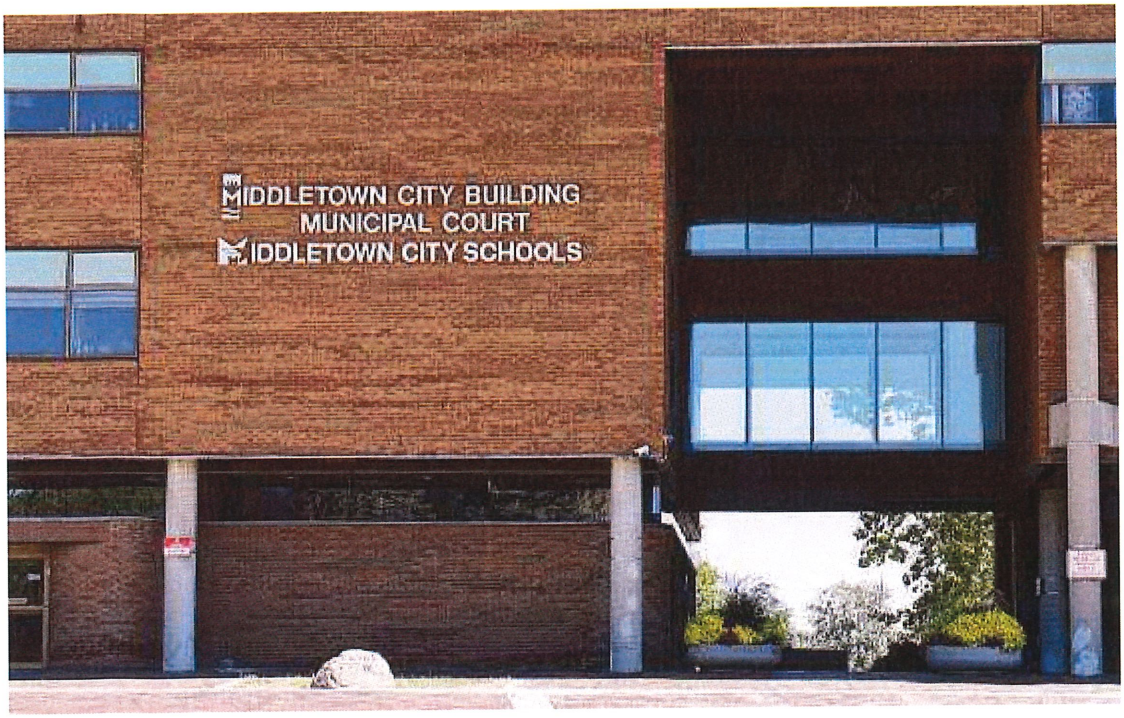
CMC Properties, which was founded in the 1960s, developed Rossville Flats and The Marcum in Hamilton and additional developments in Lebanon, Loveland and Milford.

The city has put out one other request for developers in 2022, and Weyland Ventures LLC out of Lexington, Kentucky, was awarded the predevelopment agreement.

After the due diligence period, the company stepped away from the project due to market conditions and their own capabilities, according to Schulte.

Cyber attack update: water bills, security costs

City votes to spend over $1M on cyber-related contracts, restoration, equipment.



Three months after a cybersecurity attack affected city systems in Middletown, people will start receiving water bills again in December. NICK GRAHAM / STAFF

BY BRYN DIPPOLD STAFF WRITER

Three months after a cybersecurity attack took down city systems in Middletown, people will begin to receive water bills starting in December.

December bills will be estimated based on use in the same period in 2024, according to a release from the city.

Initially, a 25 percent charge was added to help reduce balances owed for billings missed during the outage. The city announced Friday evening this 25 percent "usage adjustment" would be removed from the next bill.

"We will share more information as we get closer to restoring traditional billing," the Facebook post said.

Any payments already made by residents during the outage will be applied to the user's accounts.

A Change.org petition had garnered over 1,500 signatures as of Friday evening to "pause Middletown water billing until accurate usage data and transparency are provided."

Trash and stormwater flat fees will be back-billed in full and will return to normal in January.

Th city hopes to resume meter readings and traditional billing in 2026, but cannot provide an exact timeline, according to the release. Billing based on estimated usage will continue until that time.

When meter readings and traditional billing resumes, exact amounts owed by residents for usage during the billing outage will be determined, and any additional amounts owed will be spread over the following six billing cycles to "minimize challenges for residents."

The city will also resume shutoffs for accounts that were delinquent prior to the cybersecurity attack; these shutoffs were paused during the billing outage.

A notice will be sent to delinquent accounts with details on how to avoid shutoff, according to the release.

No details were released on what information, if any, was accessed. There was also no update on the status of fingerprint-based criminal background checks.

In early October, city phone lines, Wi-Fi and email accounts were restored.

Public and police record requests can be fulfilled online at this time, though longer wait times are expected due to a high volume of requests.

Tuesday, the city elected to enter into contracts with a cybersecurity company for "network restoration, ongoing threat monitoring, incident response readiness and system hardening."

Based on these contracts and money spent in October on cyber efforts, the city has voted to spend $1,029,410 on cyber-related contracts, restoration and equipment.

Journal-News has made a public records request for further documentation on money spent because of the cybersecurity incident, but it has not yet been fulfilled.

A $250,000 contract was entered into Tuesday with Moraine-based SecureCyber "on an as needed basis."

A master services agreement was also entered for ongoing threat monitoring, incident response readiness and system hardening.

This agreement for August through December 2025 totals $79,400. For 2026 and 2027, the contract totals $202,200 per year.

The as-needed services ($250,000) will be paid for from the general fund and 2025's threat monitoring and incident response costs ($79,400) will be covered by the computer replacement fund.

In 2026 and 2027, the amount of $202,200 will be included in the annual budget for each year from the computer replacement fund.

In a staff report, Troy Anderton, the city's information systems director, described the efforts as "essential to restoring operations and protecting

our restored network."

Council also voted in September to spend $295,610 on network hardware and consultation services.

Clayton Castle, communications manager for the city, said these changes were already planned for early 2026, but moved up due to the incident.

The city entered into a $151,010 contract with SecureCyber to purchase network hardware and consultation services, according to a city staff report.

Also, 200 Dell desktop computers will be purchased from Insight Public Sector, Inc. for $144,600.

Funds for both contracts come from the city's general fund.

Commissioners at odds on supportive housing plans

One commissioner proposes $7.5M idea to use vacant building on Symmes Road.



Left to right: Butler County Commissioner Don Dixon, with fellow commissioners TC Rogers and Cindy Carpenter, at the Sept. 30 Butler County Commission meeting. Dixon said he and Rogers don't plan to act on Commissioner Cindy Carpenter's proposal to address homelessness in Butler County. He said there is another plan the administration has worked on to address anticipated HUD cuts to the permanent supportive housing program. MICHAEL D. PITMAN / STAFF



Butler County Commissioner Cindy Carpenter at the Nov. 18 Butler County Commission meeting. Carpenter has presented a plan to address homelessness in the county, but her fellow commissioners say they will not review it. MICHAEL D. PITMAN / STAFF

BY MICHAEL D. PITMAN STAFF WRITER

Commissioner Cindy Carpenter wants to see Butler County address homelessness with a new facility, and has a plan to do so, but it will require buy-in from the county and city.

Carpenter submitted the proposal to her fellow county commissioners and Hamilton City Council to convert a county-owned building into an emergency shelter and resource hub at 3400 Symmes Road, which the commissioner described as a "long-vacant public asset." The property is also within Hamilton's city limits, which is why Carpenter is proposing the city be involved in this plan.

"This initiative is designed to improve public safety, stabilize families and ensure our most vulnerable residents have access to essential support services," said Carpenter, adding the plan reflects years of collaborative work with local and regional providers, housing professionals, state and

federal lawmakers and Hamilton partners.

Already secured funds could be used, namely from the HOME Investment Partnerships American Rescue Plan program (HOME- ARP) and the OneOhio opioid settlement.

This would be a $7.56 million investment with the county paying $45,000 for design and permitting, according to the plan, Carpenter's plan also calls for the city of Hamilton to "manage construction and operations" as Butler County would retain fiscal and compliance oversight for all federal and state funds.

City Manager Craig Bucheit confirmed the administration received Carpenter's proposal and staff is reviewing it, stating, "There may be some potential, but we need more information before we can determine whether it's workable for the city."

However, Carpenter's plan may not be considered by her fellow commissioners.

Commissioner Don Dixon said neither he nor Commissioner TC Rogers had any input in this plan, which they received a little more than a week ago. Dixon said, "Cindy refuses to work with (our staff and providers) or TC and myself."

Dixon said an official county plan is expected to be submitted, which would move from a permanent supportive housing model to a temporary model.

Those experiencing homelessness would be provided with housing for a maximum of two years, which Dixon said "would help people move up to be more independent."

Carpenter's plan, though, comes from nearly a decade of addressing homelessness, she said, adding she has consulted agencies, studied best practices across Ohio and other states, and visited successful

facilities "whose expertise has shaped a practical, sustainable, and effective plan grounded in real-world experience."

At the Nov. 18 Butler County Commission meeting, without specifically mentioning her proposal, Carpenter said, "I have been ringing the bell that we don't have the wrap-around services, that we don't engage in the encampments, that we don't have the focus on addiction, recovery, mental health to stop everyone from being chronically homeless. There's some things we can do early on in prevention that doesn't cause so many people to enter homelessness."

Butler County, as well as other Ohio counties, is facing potential cuts to permanent supportive housing funding by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The cuts would take money from long-term housing solutions, and a revised or new plan is needed by mid-December.

The county also has the largest unhoused population in the state, with nearly 500 people experiencing homelessness or living in encampments.

By leveraging state or federal funds, it is possible to take an underutilized county property and convert a vacant building into a 50-bed multi-service emergency shelter and resource hub, serving a vulnerable population without placing an additional burden on taxpayers, Carpenter said.

"It represents a strategic, sustainable investment with measurable impact," she said. "Butler County has long discussed solutions to homelessness, (and) this plan turns conversation into action."

Light Up Middletown continues providing families inexpensive holiday option

Admission is by cash donation through Dec. 31 at Smith Park.



Light Up Middletown is celebrating 26 years in operation at Smith Park in Middletown. The drive-through fantasy holiday light display is open 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. nightly through New Year's Eve. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

News

By Rick McCrabb – Contributing Writer

December 4, 2025

Now in its 26th season, Light Up Middletown continues to offer local families an inexpensive holiday entertainment option.

That was the goal when the late Flo Randall, a retired Middletown High School athletic secretary, founded Light Up Middletown in 1999.

Those who attend the holiday light displays are asked to make a cash donation, said Bill Becker, chairman of the board.

Charging per car or per person, unlike other holiday light displays, never has been an option, Becker said. A set admission fee may keep some families from attending Light Up Middletown that runs 6-10 p.m. through Dec. 31, he said.

"We only ask that they give what they can and for them to enjoy the lights," Becker said. "It has worked well in the past."

Becker said there are about 50 major light displays throughout the drive-through route that takes motorists around Smith Pond. He said there are countless other smaller displays and brightly lit trees throughout the park.

A new feature this year shows a football player, dressed in purple and white lights in honor of the Middletown High School Middies, kicking a field goal with Santa signaling the kick is good.

A group of about 20 volunteers, named the Grandpa Gang, start putting up the light displays in late September.

Crews of workers from Cleveland Cliffs help erect some of the larger displays. The workers are a "tremendous help," according to Becker.

The Granda Gang also receives assistance from the city of Middletown workers who string lights on trees, Becker said.

Local non-profit groups are scheduled to sell hot chocolate on the weekends, and visitors interested in having their picture taken with Santa Claus, are encouraged to visit Reimagine Middletown — previously known as Middletown Holiday Whopla — in downtown Middletown.

The annual Christmas Balloon Glow, scheduled for this week, was postponed due to the inclement weather. A rescheduled date will be announced later, Becker said.



Jack Squier installs lights on top of Santa's shed Tuesday, Oct. 21 at Smith Park in Middletown. Squier is part of a group of retirees known as the Grandpa Gang who install displays for Light Up Middletown. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

HOW TO GO

WHAT: Light Up Middletown

WHEN: 6-10 p.m. through Dec. 31

WHERE: Smith Park, Middletown

HOW MUCH: Admission by donation

Food assistance slashed amid federal changes

NEW DETAILS



Craig Burns, an employee of The Foodbank Inc., unloads a skid of watermelons July 9. Thousands of Ohioans could lose eligibility for food assistance over the next few years under the new federal budget. BRYANT BILLING / STAFF

BY SYDNEY DAWES STAFF WRITER

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (OD JFS) will reduce maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits allotments by half under new federal guidance.

The federal government issued guidance about partial SNAP payments to ODJFS Tuesday. Ohio was directed to recalculate the monthly benefit amount for each household.

OD JFS is working with its vendors to determine updated benefit amounts for current SNAP recipients and when benefits will be available, according to a press release from the state office.

Once that review is complete, the state will notify SNAP recipients regarding when they will receive their partial November benefits and the recalculated amount under the new federal guidance.

SNAP benefits were paused Nov. 1. Before the federal shutdown, approximately 1.4 million Ohioans received about $264 million in food benefits from SNAP each month. The distribution of those benefits was staggered through the 20th of each month.

In Montgomery County, more than 83,000 residents rely on the SNAP to help feed their families. Neighboring Greene County has 14,822 residents enrolled. In Clark County, there are 23,661 residents on SNAP.

The Trump administration last week was ordered in federal court to use a contingency fund with about $5 billion in it for the program — action the administration previously said it would not take.

The federal government has said the emergency fund it will use has enough to cover about half the normal benefits.

Recipients receive benefits through the Ohio Direction, or EBT, card.

Ohio's local and state governments have pivoted some funding in the

wake of the delay to November SNAP disbursements.

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed an executive order directing the state job and family services department to direct up to $25 million to food assistance efforts.

This includes $7 million to regional food banks using Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds and another $18 million in emergency relief benefits to more than 63,000 Ohio Works First recipients.

The Montgomery County commission, too, awarded $500,000 to Foodbank Inc. in anticipation of the region's foodbank seeing an uptick in demand.

The commission earlier this year canceled an economic development program to pivot $1 million to Foodank Inc.

Local families receiving partial SNAP benefits

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN



Food stamp funds are deposited onto Ohio Electronic Benefit Transfer Cards, or Ohio Direction Cards, which are accepted at many stores across the region.
CORNELIUS FROLIK / STAFF

BY SYDNEY DAWES STAFF WRITER

Local residents who received their partial food assistance payments Wednesday said they felt both surprised and relieved by payments that appeared on their EBT cards.

"I'm just so grateful," said Elizabeth McConehea, a mother of two living in Fairborn.

"I've been so stressed. I've just been giving up things for myself, always thinking about my kids."

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services announced earlier this week that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments would go out to residents as soon as today.

SNAP was disrupted at the start of November amid the government shutdown.

Approximately 1.4 million Ohioans receive a total of $264 million in food benefits from SNAP each month.

The average monthly SNAP benefit per person is about $190, according to the state.

The Dayton Daily News, Journal-News and Springfield News-Sun asked community members if they had received any SNAP payments, and several residents confirmed money had hit their EBT cards.

McConehea said she received her partial SNAP allotment — about $200 less than what she usually receives — on Wednesday.

"Any little bit helps," she said.

The past few weeks have been difficult for her family, McConehea said. The cost of food prices her out of certain items, but some expensive supplies her family cannot go without — cans of formula for her 3-monthold, for example.

"It's just crazy how groceries have went up over the last few years," she said.

In Montgomery County, more than 83,000 residents rely on SNAP — the fourth-highest recipient total in the state as of October.

Neighboring Greene County has 14,822 residents enrolled. In Clark County, there are 23,661 residents on SNAP, while Butler County has reported 40,064.

Springfield resident Elaine Carey said she and other retirees who live on fixed incomes struggle to pay for their groceries on top of their house payments, utilities, insurance and more. Her diabetes also limits what she can get from a grocery store.

"It's just ridiculous," she said.

The SNAP payment Carey received on Wednesday was roughly $100 short of what she usually receives on her EBT card. And she said she's worried she won't be able to spread that payment through the end of November.

She said she was surprised to see a payment come to her EBT card on Wednesday, as announcements about SNAP have changed rapidly.

President Donald Trump said it would not issue payments to SNAP recipients until the federal government reopens, but federal judges ruled the government must send out payments to residents. First partial, but later full.

The Trump administration has pushed the U.S. Supreme Court to allow full payments to remain frozen while the government is shut down. The nation's highest court on Tuesday extended a temporary pause on full payments.

Carey said she isn't sure when she'll see a full payment, but she doesn't feel like her government officials "care about the little people."

"They continue to be paid, build ballrooms and eat while other people are hungry," she said.

Dayton NAACP opposes Hara Arena site for Ohio-run mental health hospital

State approved $2.5M appropriation in November to purchase site



The state is still intent on building a new mental health hospital on the former Hara Arena site in Trotwood and Harrison Twp. despite newly-voiced opposition from the Dayton Unit NAACP. JIM NOELKER/STAFF

Local News

By Avery Kreemer

Updated 8 hours ago

X

The state is still intent on building a new mental health hospital on the former Hara Arena site in Trotwood and Harrison Twp. despite newly voiced opposition from the Dayton Unit NAACP.

A Nov. 26 letter sent to Gov. Mike DeWine, who has championed state-run behavioral health hospitals, put the chapter's stance on the site plainly: "As of the date of this letter, the Dayton Branch of the NAACP opposed the proposed construction of a mental health care hospital on the site of the former Hara Arena."

"I want to be clear that this is not an objection to the hospital itself," wrote chapter President Derrick Foward. "Rather, it is a recommendation, based on community and stakeholder input, to work collaboratively with the City of Trotwood in identifying a location that is both feasible and aligned with the City's long-term vision."

Dan Tierney, a DeWine spokesperson, told this outlet the letter was received. He offered no direct comments on its content. The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health and the Department of Administrative Services did not immediately respond to this outlet's request for comment on the site's status.

The letter came two weeks after the state approved a $2.5 million appropriation to purchase the 133-acre site from its private sector owners with the intention of building the Miami Valley Behavioral Healthcare Center — a 208-bed, state-run hospital — by 2030.

Foward wrote that the site raises "significant concerns for our community, including issues related to accessibility, safety, and the potential impact on surrounding neighborhoods."

His concerns are in keeping with those of long-opposed Trotwood city officials, who have hoped to bring a mixed-use development project to a site that has stood vacant since Hara Arena's demolition in 2020.

"Long-standing plans envision this corridor as a mixed-use district featuring housing, commercial amenities, and job-creating enterprises that would generate essential property and income tax revenue," Foward said. "Converting the site to a tax-exempt institutional use would permanently eliminate these possibilities."

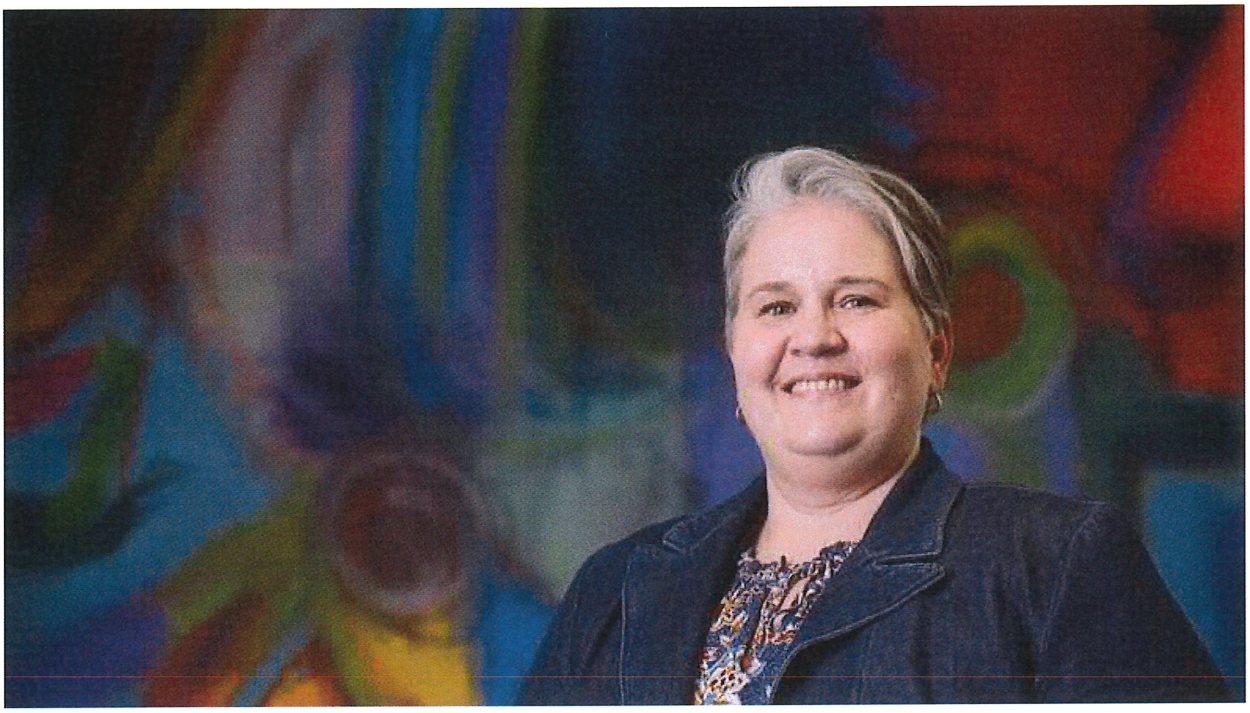
Meanwhile, Harrison Twp. officials have supported the state's hospital plan, pointing to an expected boost in the area's job market and the rippling effects it could have on further development in the area.

For more stories like this, sign up for our Ohio Politics newsletter. It's free, curated, and delivered straight to your inbox every Thursday evening.

Avery Kreemer can be reached at 614-981-1422, on X, via email, or you can drop him a comment/tip with the survey below.

December 4, 2025

Developmental Disabilities board asking for increased tax money



Developmental Disabilities Board Superintendent Lee Ann Emmons told the Journal-News she hopes voters consider they haven't asked for a "raise" in more than two decades. NICK GRAHAM/STAFF

News

By Denise G. Callahan – Contributing Writer

Increased service demands and outside mandates are putting pressure on the Developmental Disabilities Board budget forcing them to ask voters to support a new tax levy.

The Butler County commissioners are expected this week to approve putting a new 2-mill continuing Developmental Disabilities levy on the May 5 ballot. It would cost taxpayers roughly $70 more per $100,000 annually and garner $26.4 million. Combined with the existing levies — approved in 2001 and 2004 — taxpayers would pay $123 for services the agency provides annually.

Given the current anti-tax environment — spurred by hefty increases over the past couple years — DD Board Superintendent Lee Ann Emmons told the Journal-News she hopes voters consider they haven't asked for a "raise" in more than two decades.

"Think about what you were making in 2004 as a salary, could you live on that today," she said. "We have been living on a 2004 allowance essentially for 20 years and we have been good

stewards of that money, we have made that last well past what it should have and we're really just asking to be brought current."

Unlike most other taxing bodies the DD Board doesn't receive inside millage, so they don't benefit from value increases that have risen 110% since 2000. The board doesn't provide direct services to its 4,300 clients, instead contracting out the support for things like transportation, home-delivered meals, employment assistance and more.

The board said in September that the organizations expenses are outpacing revenues by a large margin. The 2026 budget calls for $40.6 million in expenses, to be paid for with $28.1 million in revenues. They expect to have $20.4 million in unencumbered cash reserves to help bridge the gap. If the levy is successful revenues would jump to around $54.4 million. Business Services Director Hailey Quinn told the Journal-News the budget numbers don't tell the whole the story.

"The numbers can look high without the context of our long-term obligations and the timing of when levy dollars are actually collected. Our waiver match alone is projected to consume nearly all current levy collections by 2026, and costs continue to rise each year as we support over 4,200 individuals. At the end of 2026, our carryover cash reserves are projected to be around $5 million," she said and later added. "This levy request is a conservative approach and based on current projections, the new funds may only sustain our obligations for roughly five years, thus we are actively working on additional cost savings measures."

They have canceled all wage increases for this year and next, reduced work hours by 2.5 hours, which will reduce personnel costs by roughly 6.7% and made other spending adjustments for a total budget reduction of $2.1 million.

"In this economy that's an impact for our staff but we have seen a full commitment from our staff that work at the county board, including our union that voted to approve this plan," Emmons said. "Because they believe so strongly in what we do and want to continue to do that work."

The county commissioners must approve putting a levy request on the ballot and Commissioner T.C. Rogers expressed concern for the workers under present conditions.

"This is like a definition of what a safety net is," he said. "When I hear about your staff has signed onto this and essentially are going to have two years of non-incentive (raises) financially that concerns me."

Medicaid pays 60 percent for services the board provides, and the local levies make up the difference. Part of the reason the board has struggled financially has been an increase in those local waiver matching funds for Medicaid, to keep people with disabilities integrated in the

community. Emmons said "We've seen a large increase in demand for services and demand for those services at a younger age."

The state has also had a hand in the budget woes, Last year the legislature pushed through a major Medicaid reimbursement rate hike for direct support workers that is paid out of the local waiver match. The per-hour wages were increased from a "working poor" rate of $11 up to as much as $18.

"The rate increase also dramatically impacted our costs," Emmons said. "You raise everything 38% and then you can start to see the math pretty quickly. It was a needed increase I think but it is creating some sustainability issues."

A deliberate effort to help taxpayers a couple years ago has also impacted the board's finances. With cash reserves at 92% of its annual budget, the DD board agreed to a $3.6 million tax rollback in 2020 and again a year later for a total tax break of $7.2 million.

Emmons said had they not rolled back the money they might not have had to make the recent budget cuts, but "to say exactly how that would have played out would just be fortunetelling which I can't do." She said she believes they would still have to ask the voters for a revenue boost.

The board also stands to lose roughly $250,000 next year because the county commissioners deployed a property tax reform option state legislators inserted in the state budget. State lawmakers gave county commissioners the authority to essentially double the state-funded Homestead exemptions and 2.5% owner-occupancy credits for eligible property owners using local dollars.

The commissioners only deployed the "piggyback" Homestead exemption portion of the new law, which will reduce revenues for all taxing bodies by about $7.6 million.

Commissioner Don Dixon told the Journal-News, "$250,000 is a lot of money but when you roll it into the whole scheme of things it's really not on the radar as being a major problem."

The commissioners are expected to approve the levy request on Tuesday.