



**ALL WE NEED
IS YOU!**

Community Improvement Corp



Photo Credits
Intel Groundbreaking, Credit: Intel Corporation
Prudential Cleanroom Services, Credit: Prudential Overall Supply
Behr Construction, Credit: Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

2022 | ANNUAL REPORT



Mayor Mark Johns
2022 Board Chair

It was a great pleasure serving the board of directors of GROW Licking County CIC for the past two years as its chairperson. We in Licking County are blessed to have our organizational "Front Door" for economic development inclusive of so many thoughtful individuals that have the interests of Licking County's future at the forefront of their hearts. Unquestionably, 2022 was a milestone year in Licking County with the announcement by Intel Corporation in January of a new semiconductor production facility coming to the county. The Silicon Heartland is a phrase we need to get used to and embrace, as other opportunities over the coming years are sure to follow. We can look with anticipation at the job prospects of the future for our kids and grandkids. These transformative economic development projects come with challenges at our local level, both for today and tomorrow. But I am a firm believer that nothing ever stays the same, including communities. Communities currently in economic and population decline have their fair share of challenges at their local levels, but those challenges offer few good solutions. Of these two paths, I much prefer the one Licking County is on.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be part of the GROW Licking County CIC leadership team. Our organization continues to coordinate economic development activities throughout our community, with key partners and stakeholders.

Thanks to the support—monetary, time, and talent—of our investors, GROW Licking County CIC has undertaken multiple important initiatives. We truly have a spotlight shining bright on Licking County, with many large announcements this year spurring major industrial growth and new career opportunities for our community! This year, we have embarked on a robust business retention and expansion program to ensure our existing businesses are as healthy as our new ones. We continue our critical work to assist existing employers by advertising career pathways and opportunities through our "We Have the Jobs" billboard and video campaign. We will continue to work, on many different levels, to position our community as a great place to locate, live, work, and play!



Jennifer McDonald
2023 Board Chair

OUR OFFICE GROWS

2022 was another year of growth for our organization. GROW welcomed new investors, new board members, a new office, and new staff. We also celebrated our organization's 10 year anniversary. In September, we welcomed Reaghan Willison as Marketing and Communications Manager. Reaghan focuses on managing and creating content for the GROW Licking County and Licking County Works websites and social media channels.



Her goal is to increase brand awareness and share the story of Licking County. She also collaborates with local employers to share their opportunities for potential employees. More than ever, our team is dedicated to collaborating with our local employers and community partners. Our staff works to support our communities in a way that enables the retention, expansion, and attraction of businesses in Licking County through community preparedness, workforce development, and sharing the Licking County story. A decade later, our mission statement remains the same: **"The mission of GROW Licking County CIC is to provide responsive and individualized economic development support that enables business to expand or locate in Licking County, Ohio."**



COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

Prepared communities win. GROW has partnered with many local municipalities, committees, task forces, and organizations to help prepare our communities to thrive. As we look ahead to the future of Licking County, we want our communities to have as many tools available to welcome growth and development. In September, we hosted an Elected Officials Training with Carol Johnson from Continuous Dialog. Carol shared her expertise on economic development sales and leadership with our Licking County elected officials.



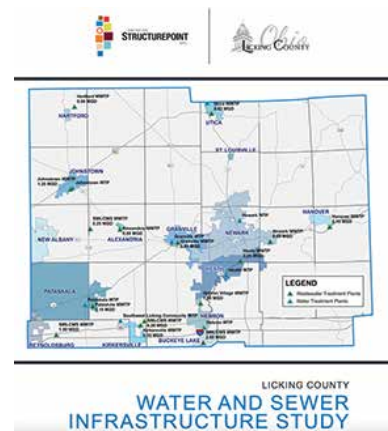
COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

MARKETING

The Marketing Committee focused on promoting Licking County as an ideal place for businesses to locate and expand. The “Welcome to Licking County” video was created in partnership with Licking County Chamber of Commerce and Explore Licking County. Members of the committee attended the annual Site Selectors Guild to promote Licking County’s available sites. GROW ran ads and sponsored content in Expansion Solutions Magazine featuring area manufacturing, industrial growth, and community videos.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure Committee was involved in the Licking County Water and Sewer Infrastructure Study to help better prepare for future planning efforts. They were also actively involved in various planning and study efforts in partnership with Licking County TID and LCATS. Looking ahead, the committee is exploring creative ways to fund infrastructure needs in Licking County.



LICKING COUNTY WORKS

The Licking County Works Committee has continued to develop career pathways resources through a four-part series of workforce videos highlighting career opportunities in Licking County’s main industries: healthcare, manufacturing, warehousing and logistics, and computer systems and information technology. The committee also ran a #WeHaveTheJobs billboard campaign in Licking and surrounding counties. **View our full career pathways toolkit at lickingcountyworks.com/skillsgap.**



2022 SUCCESSES

From paint production, to dairy product manufacturing, to one of the largest advanced recycling facilities in the world, Licking County saw several expansion and attraction announcements in 2022. With more eyes than ever on the Licking County area, we expect to continue the momentum in 2023.

**Prudential
Cleanroom
Services®**

Heath
Attraction
Total Investment \$35M
Jobs Created 70

BEHR

Heath
Attraction
Total Investment \$80M
Jobs Created 90

Atkore

Hebron
Expansion
Total Investment: \$400K
Jobs Created 14
Jobs Retained 27

freepoint
ECO-SYSTEMS

Hebron
Attraction
Total Investment \$200M
Jobs Created 70

PHARMAVITE® 50 YEARS

New Albany
Attraction
Total Investment \$200M
Jobs Created 225

intel

New Albany
Attraction
Total Investment \$20B
Jobs Created 3,000

Kroger

Newark
Expansion Tamarack Farms Dairy
Total Investment \$16M
Jobs Created 7
Jobs Retained 145

New Albany

Newark

Heath

Hebron

WELCOMING NEW INVESTORS



GROW Licking County welcomed several new investors in 2022, including Licking County Foundation, MedBen, City of Pataskala, and Corcoran Global Living. Park National Bank and Licking County also increased their investment in 2022. We would like to thank everyone who has continued to support and invest in Licking County.

In 2022, we introduced our email newsletter, **Investor Updates**. The goal of this newsletter is to provide our investors with information about upcoming events, recent GROW blog posts, and other Licking County news. If you would like to be added to our investor email list, please contact us.

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS

The Welcome Intel Task Force was created in partnership with GROW Licking County, Licking County Chamber of Commerce, and Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority to share information related to the development of Intel's new \$20 billion chip fabs in Licking County. Learn more about recent Intel news at welcomeintel.com.

Our staff also sits on several local committees to collaborate on projects with other area development professionals. GROW Licking County is a community endorser for FRAMEWORK Licking County. FRAMEWORK is an initiative to shape the future of fifteen Licking County jurisdictions that will be most immediately affected by rapid growth in Licking County with an eye toward the county as a whole. Learn more about the initiative at frameworklc.org.



Since 2012,

GROW LICKING COUNTY INVESTMENTS RESULTED IN

over
9,000
new job
opportunities

more than
\$23.5
BILLION
in new investments

over
6,700
existing jobs
retained

UPDATE FROM ANGELA CARNAHAN

Workforce Development Administrator,
OhioMeansJobs Licking County

In 2020, the Licking County Works committee conducted a workforce needs assessment that identified four in demand industries in Licking County: Manufacturing, Healthcare, Warehousing and Logistics, and Computer Systems and IT. To better inform the community and encourage careers in these industries, outreach materials were developed to explain the career field and available employment opportunities, clearly outline the training pathways and advancement opportunities in each career field, and create a multi-media marketing campaign to provide information about career opportunities in these fields. In addition, a multi-county billboard campaign was launched in 2022 with a call to action of www.wehavethejobs.com, directing individuals to a webpage containing information about the in-demand career fields and access to real time job leads in each area. In 2022, the WeHaveTheJobs.com billboard campaign received 1,920 page views. It is the hope of Licking County Works to continue encouraging all the great job opportunities in these growing in demand career pathways.



NEW HOUSING TO SUPPORT THE WORKFORCE

Housing issues are also workforce issues. With recent economic growth and anticipated population increases in the region, the need for more housing options in Licking County is an issue at the forefront of our minds. Additional housing is crucial to maintain the affordability of our community; the availability of housing of all types and price points will affect Licking County employers and their ability to attract a qualified workforce to maintain their operations. Employees in our community need more housing options so that they are able to live and work in Licking County. GROW continues to be involved in housing conversations with local organizations to advocate for new housing to support the retention and attraction of businesses and workforce in Licking County.

M.I.S.T. SCHOLARSHIP

The 2022 Manufacturing/Industrial Skilled Trades (M.I.S.T.) Scholarship recipient was C-TEC student Cameron Kirkendall. The grant was made from the GROW Licking County Workforce Development Fund of the Licking County Foundation. We would like to recognize Covestro for their continued donation and support of this scholarship.

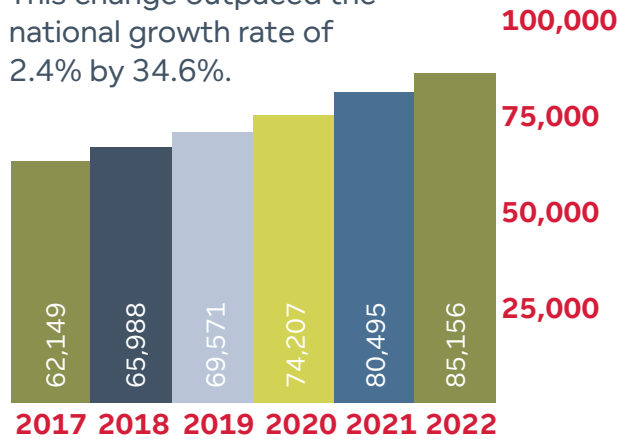


GROW BY THE NUMBERS

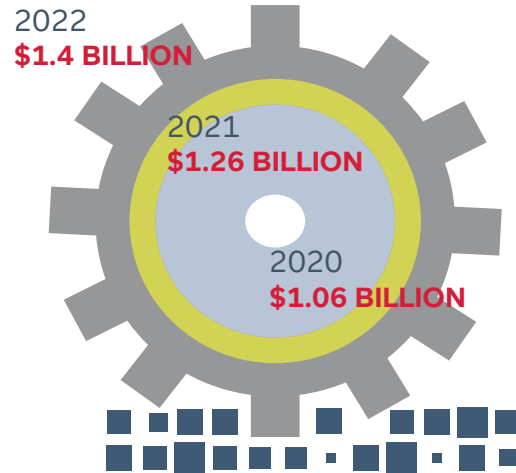
JOB TRENDS

Data source: Lightcast

From 2017 to 2022, jobs increased by 37.0% in Licking County, OH from 62,149 to 85,156. This change outpaced the national growth rate of 2.4% by 34.6%.



MANUFACTURING GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT (GRP):

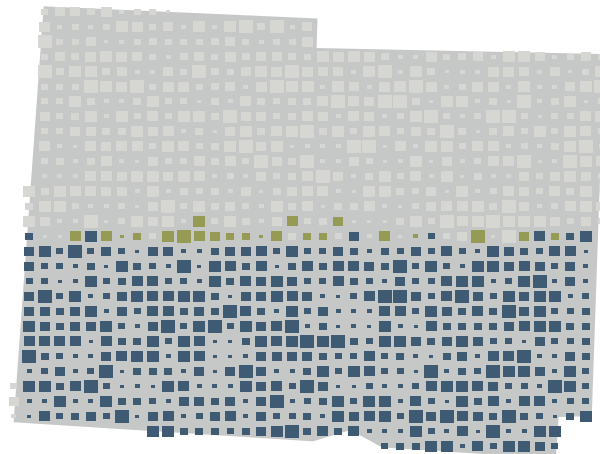


TRENDS TO WATCH

Since 2019, Licking County has surpassed other surrounding counties such as Delaware, Franklin, and Marion in terms of job growth in the manufacturing industries, according to Lightcast. Barriers to entry into the manufacturing industry are low, with most positions only requiring a high school education or a certificate program. Most employers also provide on-the-job training for their new employees. There are many opportunities looking ahead to the future of manufacturing, including automation, on-shoring, and an evolving workforce.

LICKING COUNTY LABOR FORCE

Population: 182,159 Labor Force: 91,924
Employed: 89,156 Unemployed: 2,768



GROW TEAM



Alexis Fitzsimmons
Executive Director
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Hayley Feightner
Assistant Director
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Reagan Willison
Marketing/Communications Manager
rw@growlickingcounty.org

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

Jennifer McDonald, Chair

President & CEO,
Licking County Chamber of Commerce

Joseph Robertson, Vice Chair

Trustee, Monroe Township

Erin Grigsby, Treasurer

Director of Finance & Compliance,
Heath-Newark-Licking County Port Authority

Lauren Massie, Secretary

Director – Postsecondary Center,
C-TEC of Licking County

Mark Johns, Past Chair

Mayor, City of Heath

Board of Directors

Corey Alton, Vice President of Commercial Loans

Park National Bank

Tim Bubb, Commissioner

Licking County

Jennifer Ellis-Brunn, Director

Licking County Department of Jobs & Family Services

Mike Compton, Mayor

City of Pataskala

Brandon Hess, Broker & Partner

Shai-Hess Commercial Real Estate

Jim Layton, Mayor

Village of Hebron

**Mark Mauter, Economic & Community
Development Director**

City of Newark

Robert Montagnese, President & CEO

Licking Memorial Health Systems

Robert O'Neill, President

Southgate Corporation

Jim Roberts, Senior Consultant

Verdantas

2022 INVESTORS

ADR & Associates

AEP Ohio

Bricker & Eckler

Buckeye Lake

Region Corporation

City of Heath

City of Johnstown

City of Newark

City of Pataskala

Corcoran

C-TEC

Denison University

The Energy Cooperative

Etna Township

First Federal Savings & Loan

Granville Area

Chamber of Commerce

Granville Investment Group

Heath-Newark-Licking County

Port Authority

Huntington National Bank

Legat Architects

Lehman Daman Construction

Services, Inc.

Licking County

Chamber of Commerce

Licking County Commissioners

Licking County Foundation

Licking County

Job and Family Services

Licking Memorial

Health Systems

Matesich Distributing

MedBen

Mid-Ohio Development

Corporation

Monroe Township

North Valley Bank

OSU-Newark/COTC

Park National Bank

Pataskala Area

Chamber of Commerce

Project Construction Co.

Robertson Construction

Shai-Hess Commercial

Real Estate

Southgate Corporation

The Kleingers Group

TrueCore Federal Credit Union

Union Township

Verdantas

Village of Granville

Village of Hebron

Whether you are a company interested in locating or expanding into one of our thriving communities, a possible employee looking for a future opportunity, or a prospective partner looking to become more involved in the continued growth of Licking County -

ALL WE NEED IS YOU!

Join us as we continue to ensure that Licking County is a premier location where everyone can live, work, play, and invest.



ALL WE NEED
IS YOU!

Community Improvement Corp

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growlickingcounty.org



THE
COLUMBUS
REGION