

NEWS RELEASE

Ilene Shapiro – Summit County Executive
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Community Development provided more than \$2 million for projects in 2023

SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO—Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro’s Department of Community Development invested more than \$2 million in local projects in 2023. Using federal and state funds designated for specific programs, the department assisted 187 low to moderate income households with an array of home improvement, repair, safety and energy efficiency services. The department also supported community projects in Clinton, Copley, Hudson, Lakemore, Mogadore, and Clinton.

“With cost-of-living expenses rising, many individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet and complete essential repairs and improvements to their home. Our Community Development programs allow residents in need to safely maintain and stay in their homes,” said County Executive Shapiro. “And recognizing the need for more affordable housing, we are also committed to providing financial support to new development projects that will help fill a critical gap in our community.”

The Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) assisted 120 households in reducing their energy burden. Residents participating in the program received a range of services such as furnace replacement and repair, insulation, air sealing or hot water tank replacement and repair. Twenty households participated in the Household Sewage Treatment System Program, a program funded by Ohio EPA to assist low to moderate income homeowners in replacing failing septic systems or connection to public utilities.

In partnership with Summit County Public Health, Community Development removed lead from 27 households. The program is designed to reduce lead-based paint hazards in homes built prior to 1978 with children under the age of 6 residing in the home or visiting the home more than 60 hours a year. Services provided to participants include window replacement, siding, porch replacement and repair and door replacement and repair. The department also completed 15 minor home repairs for residents. Program participants receive a five-year, forgivable loan for projects such as health and safety repairs and roof replacements.

The department used \$250,000 in federal Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds to support projects in several communities, including ADA sidewalks in Clinton, the Senior Center Pavilion in Hudson, a waterline replacement in Lakemore and Senior Center repairs in Lakemore. CDBG funds were also used to support expansion of Fairlawn Gig to low-and moderate-income residents in Copley, representing a \$1.7 million investment.

Community Development also announced new programming for 2024. The department received \$2.4 million for the state's Lead Safe program to support lead mitigation and prevention. Unlike the County's traditional lead abatement program, Lead Safe does not require eligible participants to have children in the home or to have previously tested for lead. To apply for Lead Safe, visit <https://co.summitoh.net/pages/Housing-Rehabilitation-Program.html>. This pool of funding is available to residents who are homeowners and meet other eligibility requirements including income.

To learn more about Summit County Community Development programs and how eligible residents can apply, visit <https://co.summitoh.net/departments/Community-Economic-Development.html#nav-programs>.

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