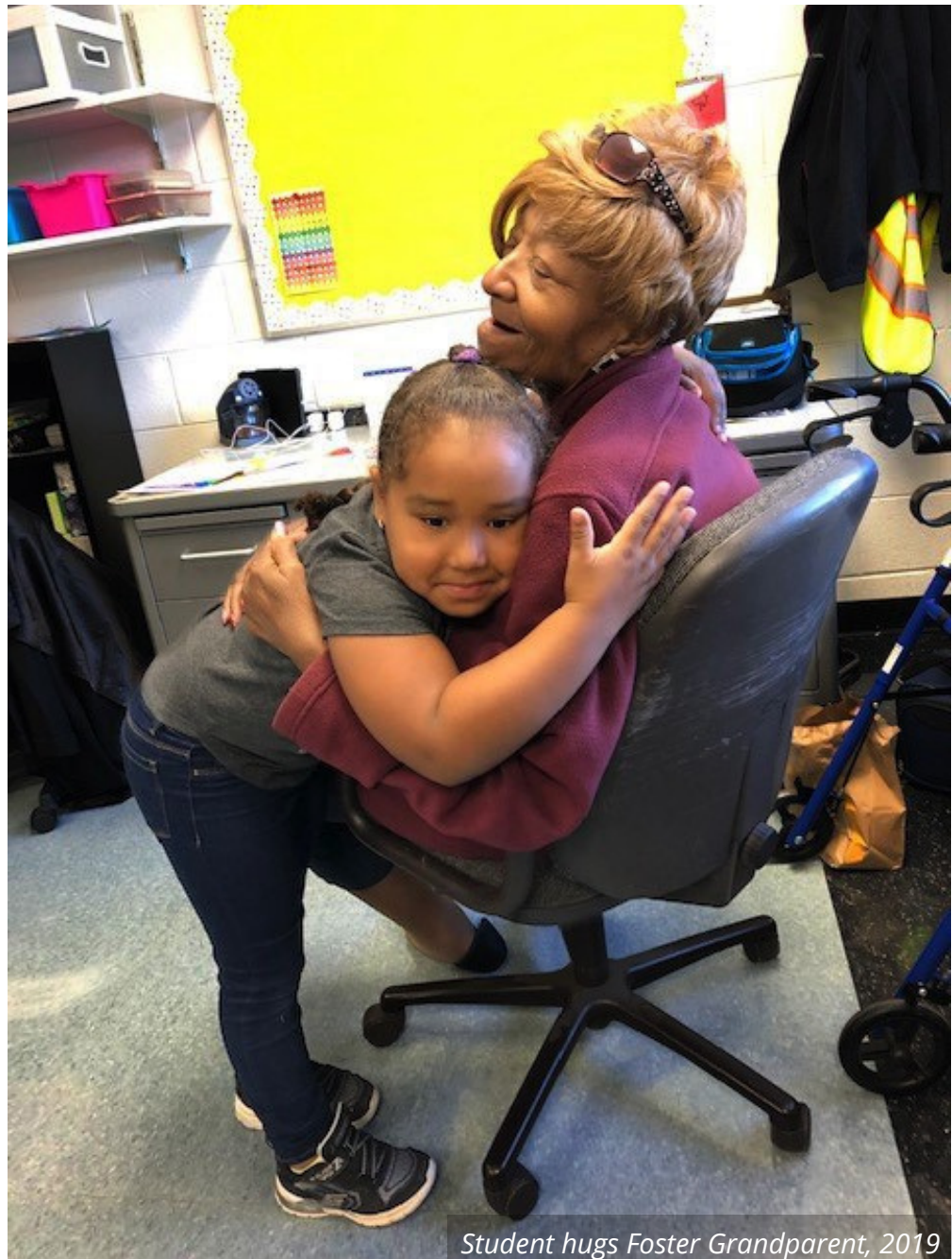




To learn more about OCED, visit:  
[washtenaw.org/oced](http://washtenaw.org/oced)

Picture of train tracks in Dexter, MI



Student hugs Foster Grandparent, 2019



Student interviews with an employer for SummerWorks



Local musician performs at Parkridge SummerFest & Joe Dulin Community Day 2019



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Collaborative solutions for a promising future*



2019 Year in Review &  
COVID-19 Response  
Jan 2019 - Sept 2020



We at OCED are committed to reporting out on our work to the broader community, including releasing an annual report. However, like most aspects of daily life, that pattern was forced to change as the COVID-19 pandemic caused OCED and the rest of Washtenaw County government to quickly shift to emergency response efforts. Our new focus was assisting community businesses, nonprofits, and county residents in surviving an unprecedented public health crisis and the economic hardships that have persisted.

Early spring was a challenging time, as the State enacted necessary Stay Home, Stay Safe orders that closed down schools, businesses, and places of worship and limited County and other workers to essential staff. OCED, along with our many public and private partners, worked quickly to provide communication to amplify the Health Department, while also making sure residents still had access to emergency food and shelter, support for unemployment filings and rental assistance, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Hearing the challenges from the many businesses that were ordered shut during this time, Washtenaw County provided seed funds for the Washtenaw Business Resiliency fund. Through public and private contributions, the fund quickly exceeded \$1.3 million which was granted to more than 460 businesses to keep their doors open through the shelter in place order.

With our many community partners, we also tracked the needs of individuals for direct assistance to maintain their housing through expanded non-congregate shelter, rent assistance and utility payments. The Barrier Busters Network expanded to many more grass roots groups, and a number of public and private partners provided funding that helped more than 660 families maintain their housing and health during the spring and summer months.

This OCED Annual Report includes our 2019 highlights, but also an update on our spring and summer COVID-19 response efforts. By taking this opportunity to also look at what was accomplished in 2019, we are reminded that the challenges and racial and geographic disparities present before COVID-19 have only been exacerbated. OCED will continue to partner with the community on ongoing pandemic response in 2020 and beyond. Our mission at OCED remains the same: making sure all residents are able to fully participate in our community and economy.

We're in this together.

**Teresa Gillotti**  
OCED Director



*OCED staff in the Office, 2019.*



*Young neighbors visit a resources booth at 2019 Parkridge Summerfest & Joe Dulin Community Day.*

# 2019 Year In Review



*SummerWorks Intern meets with their supervisor. Credit Michigan Works SE.*



*OCED weatherization staff checks out a water heater, 2019.*

## Cover Photo Caption (Top Left to Right)

1. Foster Grandparent wishes students a happy summer at a socially distant drive through event.
2. Installation of a new bus stop on Washtenaw Avenue.
3. SummerWorks young adult in conversation at a Summer 2019 event.
4. Rendering of new development in Ann Arbor.
5. Main Photo: Residents smile at Parkridge SummerFest & Joe Dulin Community Day.





Community listens in at 2019 State of Homelessness Event. Credit: Washtenaw Housing Alliance

RESPONDING TO CRISIS; DRIVING  
LONG-TERM SYSTEM CHANGE.

## CONTINUUM OF CARE

*Coordinating homelessness response in Washtenaw County*

2019 STATS

**1,327**

Individuals Housed  
(10% increase from 2018)

**56**

Average Days Until Housed  
(12% decrease from 2018)

**80%**

2 Year Retention Rate in  
Housing Programs  
(2% increase from 2018)

### Racial Equity Focus Groups

During 2019, the Continuum of Care team hosted a series of racial equity focus groups to better understand the experiences of people of color in the local homelessness system. A report was published in 2020 on [Washtenaw.org/CoC](https://Washtenaw.org/CoC) with recommendations to increase equity.



## BARRIER BUSTERS

Barrier Busters is a network of over 100 organizations that work together to coordinate resources and connect individuals to financial assistance to prevent crisis. During 2019, Barrier Busters centered social determinants of health when reviewing requests for financial assistance.

### ► 2019 Numbers

**436**

Households served by Barrier Busters  
(18% decrease from 2018)\*

**\$242,150**

financial assistance provided  
(40% decrease from 2018)\*

**77%**

of funds supported non-white households

\*2019 was the first program year since the State of Michigan reallocated utility assistance to be administered through DHHS. This resulted in roughly \$250,000 decrease in Barrier Busters funding, leading to fewer households being served through this specific program.

## COORDINATED FUNDERS

Coordinated Funders is a partnership between Washtenaw County, Washtenaw Urban County, the City of Ann Arbor, United Way of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, and St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor.

**\$4.3 million**

was provided to more than 40 non profits in our community in 2019. One new funded program was **Champions for Change**. Organized by Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), this program seeks to bring together a diverse cohort of people of color alongside an *Allies Academy*, with both dedicated to advancing racial equity to champion change in the county.



Individuals interact at Champions for Change sponsored event. Credit Nonprofits Enterprise at Work



# INVESTING IN COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

## BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority supports redevelopment of blighted or contaminated land through both cleanup and development.



Photo of the Packard Square redevelopment site

### 2019 Highlights

- The Packard Square redevelopment was completed in 2019, bringing new retail space and apartments to Ann Arbor.
- The Leslie Science and Nature Center was granted \$538,000 to remediate environmental concerns on their property.

## COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Investments with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds support low and moderate income communities that are members of the Washtenaw Urban County. Activities funded by CDBG in 2019 included:



Installation of a new bus stop on Washtenaw Avenue

- The **Washtenaw Avenue Sidewalk Infill Project** to build almost 2,000 feet of new sidewalk on Washtenaw Avenue near Golfside Road. This project was approved during 2019 to be completed in 2020.
- 17 curb cut corrections at 5 intersections in Downtown Ypsilanti to **meet ADA compliance**.
- Superior Township receiving funds to **expand the playground at Fireman's Park**. This improvement will be made in 2020.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATES

Washtenaw County supported the City of Ann Arbor in their feasibility analysis of public land for affordable housing use. This included reviewing more than a dozen underutilized city-owned sites, including surface parking lots, for potential redevelopment.



Left: Rendering of potential new development  
Right: Overhead view of the Y Lot



SummerWork Midsummer Celebration 2019

2019 marked the 4th year of the SummerWorks partnership between Washtenaw County, the University of Michigan, and Michigan Works SE. The program continues to connect local employers with the next generation of workers to develop the future workforce and bring fresh eyes to their organizations every summer.



SummerWorks Match Day 2019

### 2019 SummerWorks Stats

**93** youth placed in local internships  
**≈12,000** hours of experience gained  
**≈\$120,000** invested in local youth

## SHIFTING THE CONVERSATION

As the County looks to reframe its Economic Development strategy, OCED convened a dinner discussion with entrepreneurs and business owners of color in 2019. At the dinner, they discussed the barriers, challenges, and resources available to start and grow their businesses. This effort grew into the Black and Indigenous People of Color Economic Opportunity Steering Committee in 2020 – where BIPOC voices are being centered from the start of developing the County's economic opportunity framework.



Visual meeting notes from conversation with business owners of color.





Foster Grandparents and teachers ready for a new semester, January 2020

## MEETING COMMUNITY NEED

In the 2019-2020 school year we had **77 Foster Grandparent volunteers**, placed in 21 schools around Washtenaw County. That is a **20% increase** in grandparents offering social, emotional, and academic support to students compared to the prior year!



Foster Grandparent and teacher at 2019 Recognition Banquet



Foster Grandparents visit the state capitol together in 2019.

## SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM

### ► 2019 Numbers

**32,333**

Meals served at Senior Cafe locations - **a 5% increase from 2018.**

**243,378**

Meals delivered to homebound seniors through meals on wheels - **a 0.5% increase from 2018.**



Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels pack van with meals for residents



Ypsilanti Township Senior Cafe staff

### 2019 Highlights

- A new home delivery program opened at Northfield Community Center
- All Meals on Wheels programs offer a 2nd meal to residents per delivery
- Many sites moved to a new caterer that offers fresh, locally sourced meal options.

## HOME IMPROVEMENT

**156**

Total home improvement projects completed during 2019. Projects included replacing roofs, adding ADA ramps, and more for low to moderate income homeowners.

**34%**

Increase in the number of weatherization projects in 2019 as compared to 2018. These projects improved comfort and energy efficiency for 43 Washtenaw County households.

**11**

The ramp program restarted in 2018 with 2 ramps installed. The program accelerated in 2019 to improve accessibility for a total of 11 households.



Newly installed ADA Ramp



Insulation added to attic space





Family poses after moving into new home.  
Credit Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley



Foster Grandparent wishes students  
a happy summer at a socially  
distant drive through event.

# COVID-19 Response

March 18th - August 31st



SummerWorks participants pause Zoom  
meeting to take a group picture

## ► Barrier Busters Response

During the initial COVID-19 response (March - August), there was an **increase of approximately 200%** in the number of Barrier Busters requests compared to prior years.

To increase capacity, **OCED held several virtual trainings** during the early Summer to onboard more diverse Barrier Busters members including churches, neighborhood associations, and more community groups.

Requests for eviction prevention assistance increased from **24% in 2019 to 55% in 2020** for the period of March through June. There has been a sharp increase in need particularly among immigrant communities

## SENIOR EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE

The Washtenaw County Meals on Wheels network has not missed a single day of delivering meals to homebound seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

They have also increased capacity during this time to serve

**35% more seniors**

who are homebound than in previous years due to COVID-19's impact on older adults.



Meals prepped for delivery

**"I'm 75 and low income and I get \$16 a month in food assistance. If it weren't for these deliveries, I wouldn't have enough to eat with no way to get to the store during this pandemic." - Washtenaw County Resident**



# PROTECTING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

## Shelter Preparations

The Continuum of Care hosted meetings to prepare the system weeks before the statewide Stay At Home order was issued. This included developing new quarantine and health screening protocols.

## Expanded sheltering

As part of the County's emergency response, non-congregate hotel stays were added in the spring and summer to limit community spread of COVID-19 among the medically vulnerable shelter population.

## COVID Response - Rapid Rehousing

OCED created a rapid re-housing program to accelerate permanent housing options for 50 individuals staying in the non-congregate hotel shelter during COVID-19.

*To date, only 2 clients tested positive at the Delonis Center, and no recorded spread has taken place among individuals.*

# COMMUNICATING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO THE COMMUNITY

OCED took a lead role in communicating information to residents about essential needs. The OCED website quickly gathered information on food distribution, utility and internet status, childcare availability, and more. This page was widely shared in the community to get information to residents quickly.

In the following months, OCED worked with community partners to build tools and resources for the community to learn about available resources. This included a new open source, community driven google sheet with information about social service providers operating during the pandemic.

# NEW INITIATIVES

Throughout COVID-19, many OCED programs and services were considered essential and continued operating to support individuals in our community. There were also a number of new programs and initiatives that began, including:

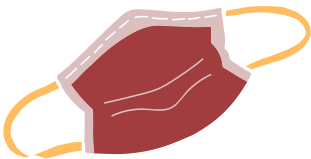
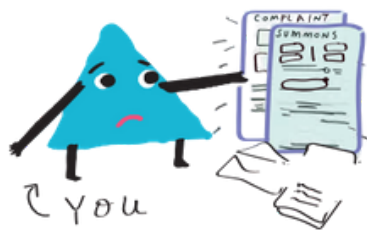


## Washtenaw Small Business Resiliency Relief Fund

Washtenaw County provided seed money to this fund, which eventually raised more than \$1.3 million in grants in April and May to support small businesses in the community. OCED partnered with Ann Arbor SPARK, the Small Business Development Center, the Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office, and the Entrepreneurship Center at Washtenaw Community College to administer the fund. We are grateful to our funders including the Song Foundation who provided a \$1 million grant.

## Eviction Diversion/Prevention Program

OCED partnered with Housing Access of Washtenaw County and Legal Services of South Central Michigan to connect folks with financial assistance and legal aid. This is an ongoing program that helps households prevent evictions during the pandemic due to non-payment. Individuals facing eviction can call 734-961-1999 to learn about financial assistance options.



## Washtenaw Free Mask Program

In OCED's capacity as the local community action agency, we received 10,000 masks to distribute to vulnerable residents. Over 25 community agencies agreed to help distribute these masks so that access and cost do not prevent anyone from keeping their families and friends safe and healthy this winter.

## Water and Sewer Programs

Adding on to the existing weatherization, home rehab, and Test and Tune programs, the OCED Home Improvement Program team launched a new plumbing repair program for county households through the end of 2020. OCED also worked with the state on a new program to identify low-income households who needed support with past-due water and sewer bills, to have the state pay local utility providers directly. Over \$137,000 in forgiveness has been provided through this program to 626 households across the county.

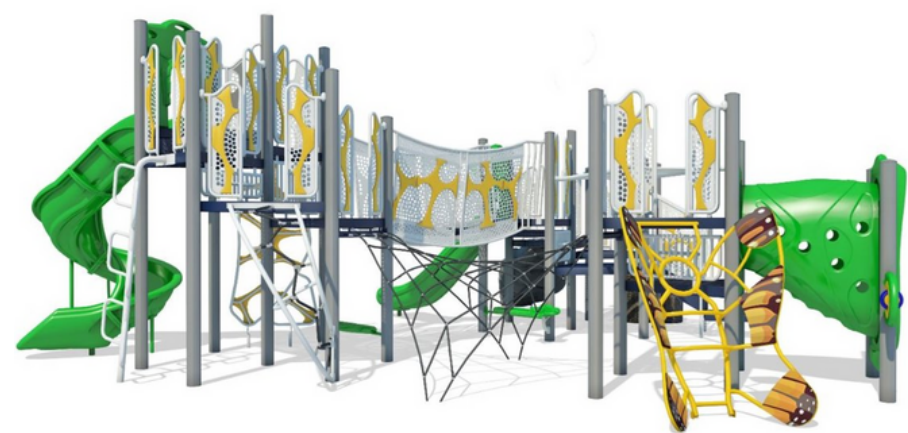




# PRIORITIZING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## ELEVATING COMMUNITY VOICE

A policy change in 2017 by the Urban County directed investment in two east-side census tracts. OCED and the City of Ypsilanti engaged more than 100 residents to guide community investment priorities. The top priority was a new and expanded playground in Parkridge Park to be installed in November 2020.



Rendering of new playground equipment

Following a series of meetings in 2019 and a virtual kids' input session in 2020, the above playground design and several add-ons, was selected in an Aug. 2020 physically distanced voting session.

## PARKRIDGE SUMMERFEST & JOE DULIN COMMUNITY DAY

2019  
2020

On August 24, 2019, local musicians entertained hundreds of area residents in Parkridge Park, while OCED organized a record number of community service providers (63) to participate and engage with members of the community.



Family poses at community resource booth



Volunteer at school supply drive thru

Our partnership expanded and adapted to meet the needs of the community during COVID-19. A virtual festival featured local musicians and a variety of updates about housing, health, education and more via livestream. The next week, these partners organized a drive thru to give away 900 backpacks filled with school supplies, along with grocery boxes, hand sanitizers and more.

At the end of the 2020 Census, Washtenaw County had a self-response rate of 77%, which is higher than both the Michigan (71%) and National (67%) average.



February 2020 Census Complete Count Commission Meeting

Starting in 2019, OCED organized the local Complete Count Commission to lead outreach and education efforts in the community about the 2020 Census. Activities included social media campaigns, in person events before COVID-19, and passing out thousands of census branded hand sanitizers and disinfecting wipes. Leading up to the 2020 Census, OCED also helped compile all new addresses to ensure everyone received their census forms in the mail.



Census branded sanitizers



# 2019 OCED FINANCIALS

## OCED Budget

### Funding Sources

State & Federal	\$6.8 million
City/County	\$3.7 million

**Total Budget** **\$10.5 million**

### Expenditures

Human Services	\$5.5 million
Housing & Infrastructure	\$4.1 million
Economic Opportunity	\$0.9 million

**Total Expenditures** **\$10.5 million**

## OCED Leverage

**\$90.4 Million**

OCED's budget is primarily state and federal funding. Leverage is additional funding for programs or projects from the private, foundation, non-profit and other sectors, which allows programming to have a greater impact.

Washtenaw County and City of Ann Arbor general funds are key to ongoing operations, but make up a small percentage of total funding.

The total OCED budget of \$10.5 million leverages another \$90.4 million in public and private investment.

# CARES ACT FUNDING

## State of Michigan Pass Through

### Program Funds

Coronavirus Relief Fund Digital Divide	129,748
Coronavirus Relief Fund Emergency Services	81,028
Coronavirus Relief Fund Quarantine Kits	15,000
Coronavirus Relief Fund Water Bill Assistance	168,303
Coronavirus Relief Fund Plumbing Repair Program	195,000
MSHDA Eviction Diversion Program	1,612,700
Families First Coronavirus Response Act - Senior meals	115,000
Meals on Wheels - homebound senior meals and support	25,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,341,779</b>

### Homelessness Funds

MSHDA Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19	843,265
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$843,265</b>

### Low Income Household Support

Community Services Block Grant CARES	802,491
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$802,491</b>

## Direct Federal Funds

<b>Homelessness Funds</b> <i>(HUD Emergency Solutions Grant COVID-19)</i>	
Round 1	643,403
Round 2	1,794,203
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,437,606</b>

<b>Community Development Block Grant COVID Funds</b>	
Round 1	1,267,964
Round 3	1,608,347
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,876,311</b>

**Total COVID Reponse Funds** **\$9,301,452**