2023 Annual Report

PUTNAM COUNTY | **COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION**

We're honored to be an extension of your team, serving you, your business, your community and Northwest Ohio.

The CIC has served as the economic development and **business hub** for Putnam County for 39 years, connecting people and businesses with solutions they need to thrive and grow. This means working with existing businesses, recruiting and supporting entrepreneurs, attracting business projects that bring high-quality jobs, developing real estate and buildings, bringing public and private partners together, promoting every village and township, and helping our small towns attract amenities that impact quality of life. We're passionate about building the economy, it's what we do best!

We're pleased to present this annual report. We encourage you to delve into the details and welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Making this tremendous **impact on Putnam County** would not be possible without YOU! We recognize the teamwork and partnerships that help make these economic and community development initiatives successful. Thank you for being part of the team that is strengthening our businesses, our communities, our workforce and the local, regional and state economy.

As you read these 2023 highlights, we also invite individuals and businesses to renew or begin a membership investment in the Putnam County CIC. Because the organization is a 501c3 non-profit, your contributions are fully tax deductible. The CIC is funded solely by our investors along with the businesses and communities benefiting from this work. Thank you for keeping us strong.

Together, we build Putnam!

Amy Sealts

Amy Sealts, Director, Economic Development
Rachelle Conine, Operations & Fiscal Manager
Marlene Lahey, Administration

Jeff Vance, Board President
Kevin Bellman, Board Vice President
Sandy Roller, Board Sec/Treasurer

2023 Annual Report

$38 MILLION CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

In 2023, the CIC facilitated projected that improved, expanded or attracted businesses resulting in $38 Million in new capital investments in Putnam County. These economic development investments grew existing companies, attracted new businesses, retained and created jobs, developed commercial and industrial real estate, enhanced public infrastructure and helped keep people working, spending and living in Putnam County.

$3 MILLION+ IN GRANTS

Several grant applications were successful and a new program helped three women-owned businesses win $75,000 in grants for new technology and equipment.

BUILDING CAPACITY IN PUTNAM COUNTY

A core function of the CIC is building capacity to tackle complex challenges impacting the county. In 2023 these were:

1. HOUSING: completed the county's first housing analysis, marketing to developers, and helping communities craft new housing incentives.
2. FINANCING: qualifying building construction projects can now access new incentives and Better Buildings Northwest Ohio, PACE financing (in Energy Savings Improvement Districts).
3. CHILDCARE: collaborative work among business, childcare and agencies to expand services.
4. WORKFORCE: Marked 1st anniversary of The Workforce Partnership of Putnam County.
5. SITE DEVELOPMENT: preparing sites, redeveloping buildings and remediating brownfield sites.

LOCAL & REGIONAL CONNECTIONS

The State of the Vision annual meeting was held 8.3.23 on the campus of Endera where tours were given for **172 guests**. Founder and CEO John Walsh spoke about "Why Ohio" and Chase Eikenbary from RGP/JobsOhio gave state program updates. The CIC highlighted the local & regional economy, announced small business grant recipients and presented annual awards.

Unverferth Manufacturing,
Family-Owned Business of the Year

Hirzel Canning, Legacy Award

Fort Jennings State Bank,
The Extra Mile Award

Village of Ottawa
Economic Development Partner of the Year

Metrics *that* Matter

Business Retention & Expansion

Business retention & expansion visits helping businesses solve challenges and grow.

101

Closing the Gap

Connected 13 businesses to financing, loans, grants, tax credits and other incentives.

13

Online

Leveraging websites and digital marketing to engage with hundreds of local/state and national businesses.

putnamcountyohio.com

Capital Investments

$ 38 Million

Facilitated $ 38 M in economic development projects.

Economic Wins

$

$1 million Vibrant Communities Grant, **3 women-owned** business grants, Infrastructure and roadwork grants

Marketing Putnam County

10 community marketing proposals
79 print and online stories
11 new company videos
200,000+ reach on Build Putnam

Telling the story

600,121 Facebook impressions
303,404 FB page reach
3,774 FB page followers
1,207 LinkedIn impressions (30 day avg.)

Career Connections

178

Worked with 178 businesses, schools & agencies connecting them with job seekers on BUILD PUTNAM.

Leading Initiatives

88 businesses, organizations and individuals investing in the CIC. The 2024 goal is 120 member investors.

Education & Training: 12 training events attended by 42 businesses and 7 villages impacting over 5,000 workers and first responders. The CIC manages the Build Putnam portal to ensure the public is aware of local careers, sponsors the Safety Council of Putnam County, coordinates Putnam County Educator Bootcamp bringing educators into local manufacturing facilities, and helps businesses earn OhioTech Cred.

Leadership: a new Leadership Putnam County certificate program for companies and nonprofits developing talent, and individuals seeking growth.

Community Impacts: growing & attracting housing developers and helping villages create housing development incentives. Participated in comprehensive planning for one community and served as project leader for a second community.

Workforce: The Workforce Partnership of Putnam County marked its 1st anniversary in 2023. The CIC planned with partners for two years to create the entity which is helping prepare and grow a highly-skilled local workforce.

Transportation: spearheaded creation of a Transportation Improvement District to access additional funds for roadwork projects.