



2025
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Butler County
ESP



Welcome

As president of the Butler County ESP Advisory Council, I am pleased to share our program's 2025 Annual Report. This was an especially important year for ESP and for the Butler County senior services tax levy, our primary funding source.

In a challenging environment – marked by rising property taxes, a large school levy request and statewide debate over tax policy – Butler County voters approved the first increase to the senior services levy in 20 years. Our county's older adult population grew 79% over the same 20-year period, and demand for care has risen accordingly. The levy increase ensures that ESP can continue meeting these needs and remain a vital resource for older adults, caregivers and families.

We are grateful to the voters who recognized the importance of protecting these services. I also want to thank the many volunteers and families who helped educate our community about the levy's impact and the essential role ESP plays in supporting family caregivers and helping older adults remain safe and independent at home.

With the levy's passage, we were immediately able to lift enrollment restrictions that had been in place since 2024. During that time, hundreds of older adults who would have otherwise qualified had to be turned away. With the new funding in place, ESP is again able to welcome all eligible applicants, and by 2030 we expect to serve nearly 20% more people than we did in 2025.

I'm also pleased to report that ESP has strengthened its ability to provide home care assistance (housekeeping, personal care, respite) thanks to recent improvements in hiring and retaining home care workers. After several years of inconsistent service caused by the national home care workforce shortage, our local provider network now reports greater staffing stability, allowing ESP to deliver more reliable care to clients.

Even with levy passage, we will continue to look for ways to use our funding as effectively and efficiently as possible. Our partnership with Council on Aging (COA), ESP's administrator, helps us do that. As the region's Area Agency on Aging, COA leverages federal funding and grants to support county residents. For example, in 2025, COA secured \$60,000 in grant funding to deliver supportive services to our county's older adults. You can read more about these grants in our report.

There's much more news to share with you, so I hope you'll take a few minutes to read our report and learn how ESP and the senior services levy strengthen Butler County and enhance the well-being of not only older adults, but also residents of all ages. On behalf of this advisory council and the 3,755 older adults served by ESP in 2025, thank you once again for your continued support.



Jennifer Heston-Mullins
President, Butler County
ESP Advisory Council

ESP is a Community Partnership

Butler County Commissioners

T.C. Rogers, President; Cindy Carpenter, Vice President; Donald L. Dixon, Member

Butler County ESP Advisory Council

Jennifer Heston-Mullins, President; Brandi Ballantyne; Michael Berding; Cara Brown; Shawn Cowan; Tresea Hall; Kevin Kurpieski; Laura Lacy; Emily Liechty; Sherry Lind; John McCarthy; Amy Simpson; Sherrill Swann; Nancy Williams

Administered by Council on Aging

4601 Malsbary Road, Blue Ash, OH 45242
(513) 721-1025 www.help4seniors.org

Intake and Care Management by LifeSpan Community First Solutions

1900 Fairgrove Ave., Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 868-9281 www.community-first.org





2025 Client Stats

Butler County ESP clients are caught in the middle: with income too high to qualify for Medicaid, but too low to pay for private in-home care. They need help with basic activities like personal care and transportation. Between raising a family and going to work, family members help as much as they can, but ESP fills in gaps in care so our older neighbors and loved ones can continue to live independently in their homes and communities. ESP is a program that benefits our entire community.

3,755 Clients Served


68%
FEMALE



32%
MALE

 53%
LIVE ALONE

 \$451
MONTHLY
OUT-OF-POCKET
MEDICAL EXPENSES

 83%
AGE 70+ (15 100+)

 \$2,055
MEAN MONTHLY
INCOME

 924
AVERAGE DAYS
ON THE PROGRAM

Demographic data includes individuals enrolled in ESP and FastTrack Home only.



Success Stories

To read these full success stories and more, scan the code with your mobile device or visit www.help4seniors.org/bcesp2025

Butler County voters approve first senior services tax increase in 20 years

Butler County's senior services tax levy – Issue 1 – was approved by 55% of voters on Nov. 4, 2025. The levy was a renewal of the existing 1.3-mill levy and an increase of .7 mill. It was the first time in 20 years Butler County voters were asked to approve an increase in the senior services levy, despite 79% growth in the county's 60 and older population during the same time period.



Butler County ESP adopts new cost sharing model

Butler County ESP has implemented a new cost sharing model designed to simplify billing, improve consistency and better align costs with the financial realities faced by older adults. The previous percentage-based model often produced unpredictable monthly bills due to fluctuating service use, provider billing cycles and complex calculations. By shifting to a flat monthly cost share and introducing a streamlined tool for real time calculation, the new model reduces administrative burden while offering clients greater clarity and stability. Initial results indicate notable increases in participation and revenue, as well as better alignment with individuals' financial ability to contribute.

Trenton widow regains independence with help from ESP

On Oct. 31, 2022, Susan's life changed forever. That was the day she had major spinal surgery and woke up not able to feel her lower body. She was told she was paraplegic. A widow after 48 years of marriage, Susan lived alone in her single story, four-bedroom home. "I was scared to go home (from the hospital)," she said. "I was absolutely, flat-out terrified." But through her tireless work and determination, and with support from Butler County ESP, Susan is more independent than she ever thought she could be again.



Grant funding helps save local dollars

As ESP's administrator and the county's Area Agency on Aging, Council on Aging works to secure grant funding to preserve local tax dollars and serve more county residents. In 2025, grants from the McCullough Hyde Foundation and the Luther Charitable Foundation provided transitional care services and home modifications to eligible older adults in the county. The grants, totaling \$60,000, will be spent between 2024 and 2026.

Use the QR code at the top of this page to read more, including these additional stories:

- Client and provider stories amplify ESP impact
- Robust community education campaign contributes to levy victory
- Report shows 100% of ESP clients meet eligibility criteria
- Oxford Seniors receives Business of the Year award

Expenses + Revenue

How tax dollars are spent

ESP would not exist without the generous support of voters. A county tax levy in place since 1996 provides 90% of ESP's funding. The most recent tax levy was approved by 55% of voters in 2025. The 2-mill levy will generate \$20.2 million per year and cost homeowners \$50 per \$100,000 of property value annually. COA's goal is to ensure the highest quality services at the lowest cost in order to serve as many people as possible with the tax dollars available.

As the Area Agency on Aging for southwestern Ohio, including Butler County, COA leverages state and federal funding and seeks alternative funding sources that can help offset costs to the levy. Additional funding comes from voluntary client donations and client cost sharing.

Revenue

Federal, State and Other Grants (via Council on Aging)	\$887,964
Client Donation, Cost Sharing and Interest Earned	\$283,502
Title XX	\$259,240
Butler County Senior Services Levy	\$13,287,409
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,718,115

Expenses

SERVICE	CLIENTS SERVED	SERVICE UNITS	COST
Care Management	3,544	30,975 months	\$2,464,376
Home-Delivered Meals ¹	2,054	387,220 meals	\$4,397,793
Electronic Monitoring Systems	1,847	16,846 months	\$353,641
Home Care Assistance	1,207	98,005 hours	\$2,814,089
Transportation	356	9,107 one-way trips	\$552,937
Home Medical Equipment	337	795 items	\$132,492
Independent Living Assistance ³	283	4,211 hours	\$256,228
FastTrack Home Care Transitions ¹	277	599 months	\$189,411
Consumer-Directed Care	269	76,522 hours	\$1,487,936
Minor Home Repairs	167	192 repairs	\$267,266
Laundry Service	55	1,485 jobs	\$45,795
Behavioral Health Services (Uplift) ⁵	52	N/A	N/A
Title XX Home Care ²	48	32,619 hours	\$259,240
Environmental Services ⁴	42	130 jobs	\$56,455
Adult Day Services ¹	17	1,046 days	\$101,801
Overnight Respite ¹	11	72 nights	\$23,998
Kinship Meals ²	6	1,110 meals	\$1,821
Adult Day Transportation	5	587 one-way trips	\$22,755
Administration	N/A	N/A	\$945,908
Intake and Assessment	N/A	N/A	\$345,995
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$14,718,115

¹Service funded in whole or in part by Federal Older Americans Act, drawn down by Council on Aging.

²Service made possible by grants and/or Federal funding secured by Council on Aging. Levy dollars were not used for this service.

³Help with benefit applications and organizing personal and household records.

⁴Pest control, major housekeeping and waste removal.

⁵Services delivered in 2025 were paid in January 2026 and will be reported in the 2026 annual report.

Additional Expenses

Butler County Commissioners distributed funds from the senior services levy to the following organizations: Butler County Job and Family Services Adult Protective Services Unit, \$166,324; Butler County Prosecutor's Office for fraud prevention, \$210,212

What is ESP?

ESP helps eligible county residents age 60 and older remain safe and independent in their homes by providing help with certain activities of daily living (bathing, cleaning, cooking, transportation and more), filling gaps in care that may already be provided by family caregivers.

ESP offers flexible care to meet clients' changing needs. Eligibility and care needs are determined during an in-home assessment by a professional care manager who coordinates and monitors clients' care. Income is not an eligibility factor for ESP, but some clients have a cost share amount based on their income and assets.

The program is operated by Council on Aging (COA) via a contract with Butler County Commissioners, who appoint an advisory board to advise on program needs and policies. Provider agencies deliver ESP services under a contract with COA. ESP is a compassionate and cost-effective alternative to nursing home care.

Cost to Taxpayers

\$451

Monthly costs for
ESP services

VS

\$8,000+

Monthly costs for
nursing home care

What is COA's Role?

COA's responsibilities for ESP in Butler County include program development, provider management, data analysis and reporting; financial services and oversight; information technology; quality improvement; and community engagement. As a state-designated Area Agency on Aging, COA provided these additional services in 2025:

85,364

requests for information and referral fulfilled

313

Butler County residents received support to transition from one care setting to another

2,311

Butler County residents received home- and community-based services through Medicaid funded programs

782

eligible Butler County older adults enrolled in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

7

Butler County veterans received care management support to help them receive self-directed in-home care through the Veteran Directed Care Program

\$406,447

in Title III funding allocated to local organizations for congregate meals, legal assistance, wellness education, caregiver support, transportation and other supportive services

