

# Franklin County

*Work Experience Program*

# Comprehensive Report

*Able-Bodied Adults  
Without Dependents*



2014 OHIO ASSOCIATION OF FOODBANKS 2015

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# Executive Summary

For almost two years, the Ohio Association of Foodbanks has been assisting able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Franklin County with meeting the federal work requirement to maintain their food assistance as part of an ongoing partnership with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (FCDJFS). The association has been able to grow this Work Experience Program (WEP), offering more services and resources to ABAWDs in need. WEP provides work experience and job training for participants who are currently unemployed or underemployed, as a means to enhance their ability to secure sustainable employment.

Prior to assigning a client in a job placement within our network of partner nonprofit and faith-based organizations, the association meets with each ABAWD to perform an in-depth assessment. To date, we have assessed close to 5,000 individuals. The data we have collected through these assessments continue to reinforce what we have been able to identify as key barriers for many of our clients as they seek gainful employment. Our findings indicate that many of our clients struggle with accessing reliable transportation, unstable living situations, criminal records, education, and both physical and mental health problems. Our deeper understanding of these issues has led us to partner with organizations that can help ABAWDs navigate through many of their challenges, giving our clients a better chance at improving their lives and supporting themselves.

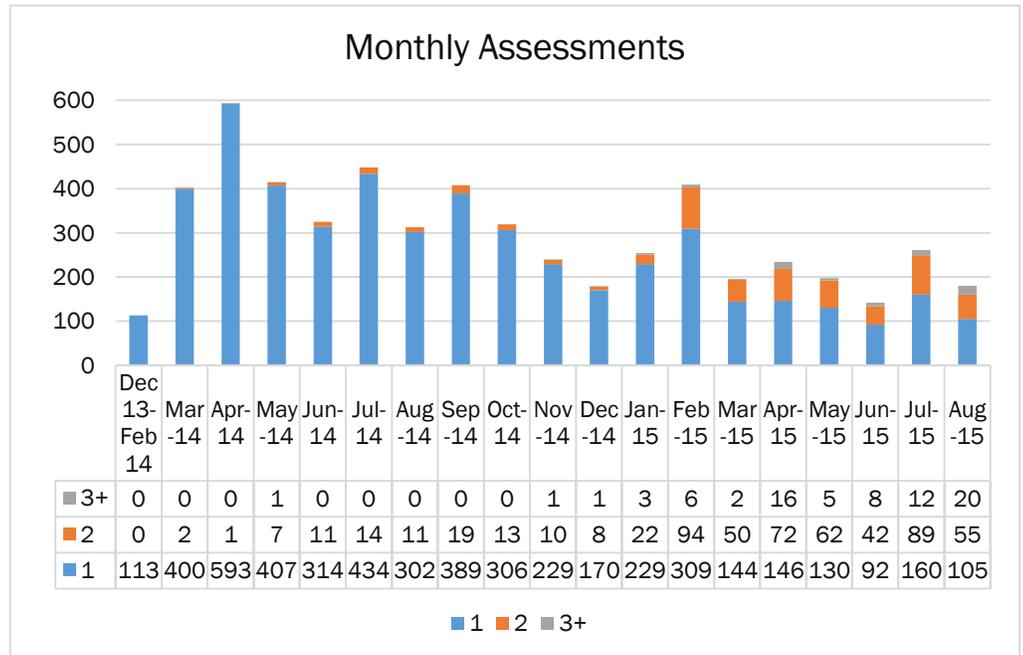
The data has prompted many recommendations to FCDJFS including but not limited to: providing additional funding for programs that support WEP participants and low-income households; expanding enrollment of nationally certified educational programs as well as programs for youth aging out of foster care; and creating an employment pipeline into strategic aspects of the job market.

# Assessment of ABAWDs in Franklin County, OH

When Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services (FCDJFS) caseworkers make the determination that a client receiving SNAP benefits meets the criteria to be considered an able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) and is required to work under federal regulations, the client is referred to their local opportunity center to meet with an Ohio Association of Foodbanks Work Experience Program (WEP) assessment specialist. Each specialist completes a comprehensive interview with each client using a series of questions on the Work Experience Assessment Portal. The assessment is designed to determine employability and identify barriers to employment.

The assessment process is part of an ongoing contract targeting clients who are subject to a strict, three-month time limit in every 36-month period for SNAP eligibility. As we approach the second anniversary of this program, we have closely examined the data collected from 4,827 ABAWDs and gathered from 5,434 self-reported employability and skills assessments that took place between December 10, 2013 and September 1, 2015. Over the past two years the information obtained for this ongoing project represents the most comprehensive and up-to-date information collected about this misunderstood population. These findings offer instructive, meaningful insight into who these individuals are and what will be needed to address the barriers and challenges faced by these individuals as they attempt to secure stable employment.

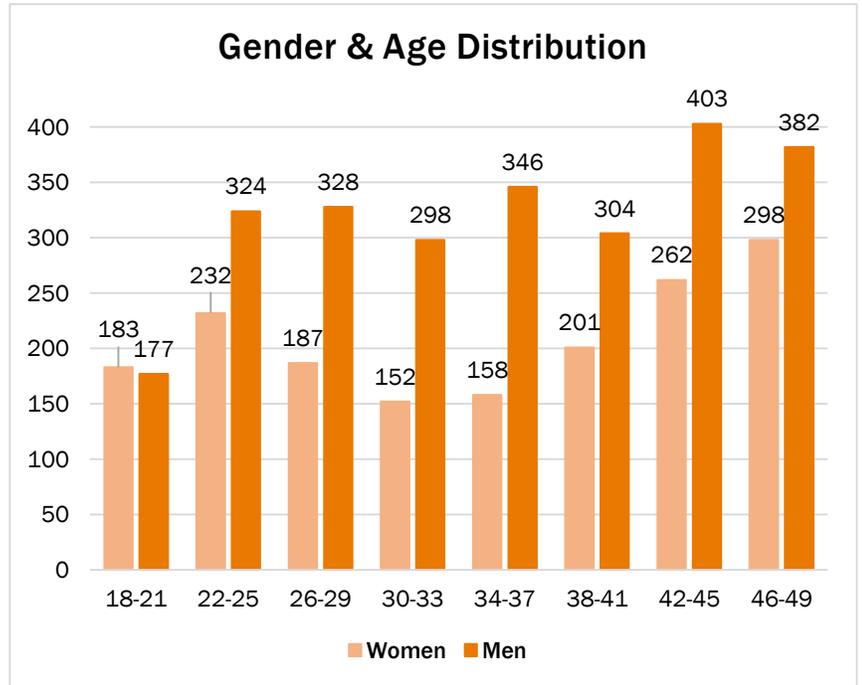
The chart depicts the number of ABAWD assessments performed by association staff for each month. Clients coming in for an initial assessment each month appear in blue, second time visits in any given month appear in orange, and clients who are completing the assessment for the third or more times appear in gray.



## Age & Gender

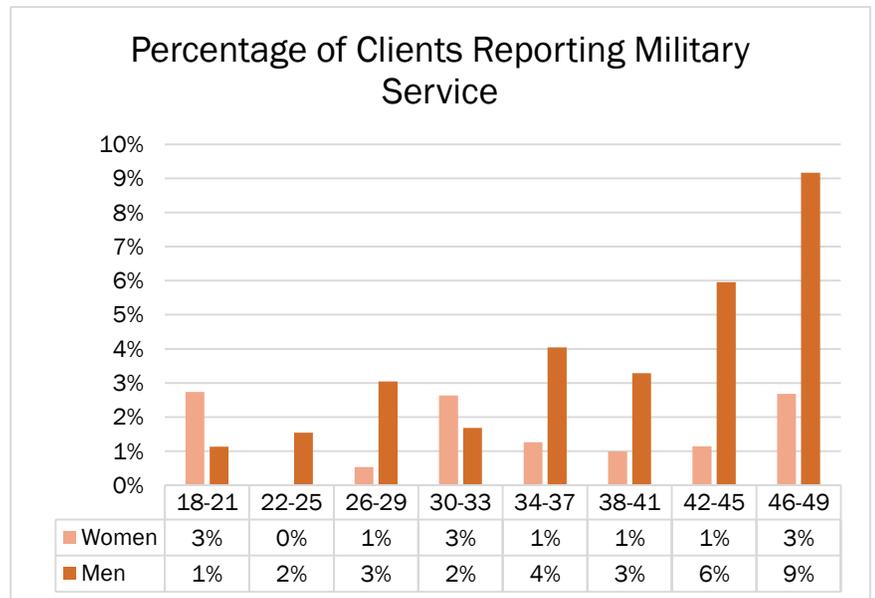
From the total population of 4,827 ABAWDs surveyed, **1,880** clients (**38.9%**) were **female**, and **2,945** clients (**61.0%**) were **male**. Two clients preferred to be identified as **transgender**.

The chart represents a distribution of the ABAWDs based on age and gender. This distribution does not include the 507 clients (176 female and 331 male) for which there was no age listed, nor does it include the 83 clients (31 female and 52 male) who were over 50 at the time of the assessment and therefore exempted from the program.



## Veteran Status

**Only 156** clients (**3.2%**) reported that they were **veterans**. While veterans make up a relatively small percentage of all ABAWD clients, they represent a significant portion of the male population over the age of 35 as represented in the chart. As we encounter veterans, we are able to help them find resources designated to assist them with housing, employment, and shelter.



# Communication

Communication is critical to clients participating in WEP, and maintaining a reliable form of communication with clients has continued to be a challenge as FCDJFS and the association communicate with clients primarily by mail. Since we started collecting mailing information in April 2014, 65 clients have indicated that they do not have a mailing address, while 31 clients provided a mailing address and identified themselves as homeless. Additionally, 152 clients have provided a mailing address that is known to be a homeless shelter, check-in center, or mental health facility.

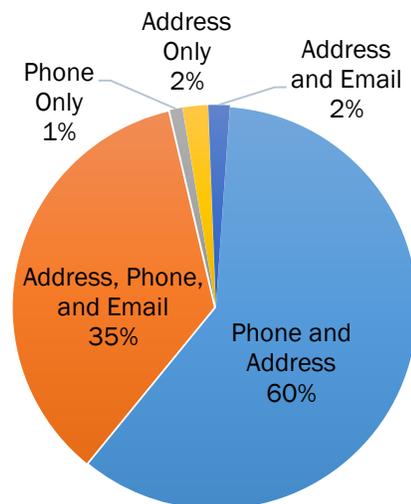
- Faith Mission (245 N Grant Ave ) **16** Clients
- Friends of the Homeless (924 E. Main St.) **21** Clients
- Open Shelter (61 E. Mound St.) **24** Clients
- Holy Family Soup Kitchen and Shelter (57 S. Grubb St.) **17** Clients
- Star House (1621 N. 4<sup>th</sup>) **4** Clients
- YWCA (595 Van Buren) **17** Clients
- YMCA (40 W. Long) **39** Clients
- Southeast Community Mental Health Center (16 W. Long St.) **10** Clients
- North Central Mental Health (1301 N. High St.) **4** Clients

This indicates that at least 248 clients (5.1%) of our ABAWD clients are dealing with housing insecurity. These numbers do not capture the homeless clients who provide the mailing address of a relative or friend, and do not specifically identify that they are homeless.

## Types of Communication Reported

- 4,625 clients (95.8%) listed phone numbers
- 1,800 clients (37.3%) listed e-mail addresses
- 4,381 clients (90.8%) listed mailing addresses
- 65 clients (1.3%) reported not having an address
- 380 clients (7.9%) were assessed before address information was asked

## Communication Avenues



While 95.8% of clients reported having phone numbers, this does not mean that they have continuous access to a phone. Clients using subsidized government provided cell phones often run out of wireless minutes before the end of the month, or in many other cases their personal phones have been disconnected, or phone numbers are frequently changed due to using prepaid cellular devices. We can only assume that if we are unable to contact clients via phone, potential employers are also unable to reach them.

The association always offers clients the opportunity to register for an e-mail address as a viable, dependable alternative to a phone. Because most major employers require clients to fill out job applications online, having an e-mail address is critical to the application process. We encourage clients to visit their local libraries to check their messages, but find that some clients may not have reliable or readily available community-based access to the Internet. In this process, we also find that many clients struggle with using technology and computers.

Additional information gleaned from the 531 repeat ABAWD clients reinforces our findings, and provides insight into other forms of stable communication for this population. This 11% of ABAWD clients who have taken the assessment more than once shows:

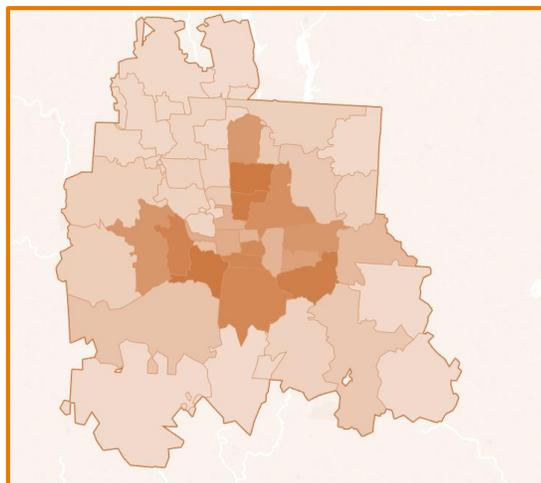
- 47% (253) have changed their phone number between assessments
- 34% (181) have changed their addresses between assessments

This transiency can have real consequences for ABAWD clients who are sanctioned (cut off from their benefits) because they did not receive an appointment or assignment notice from FCDJFS which required action to avoid a disruption in their benefits.

## Client Locations

While the clients who have reported addresses represent 58 different zip codes in Franklin County, **over 55% of clients come from 9 zip codes:**

- 43223: 141 clients (7.0%)
- 43224: 140 clients (6.9%)
- 43211: 137 clients (6.8%)
- 43232: 133 clients (6.6%)
- 43204: 123 clients (6.1%)
- 43206: 117 clients (5.8%)
- 43207: 116 clients (5.7%)
- 43205: 112 clients (5.5%)
- 43219: 104 clients (5.1%)

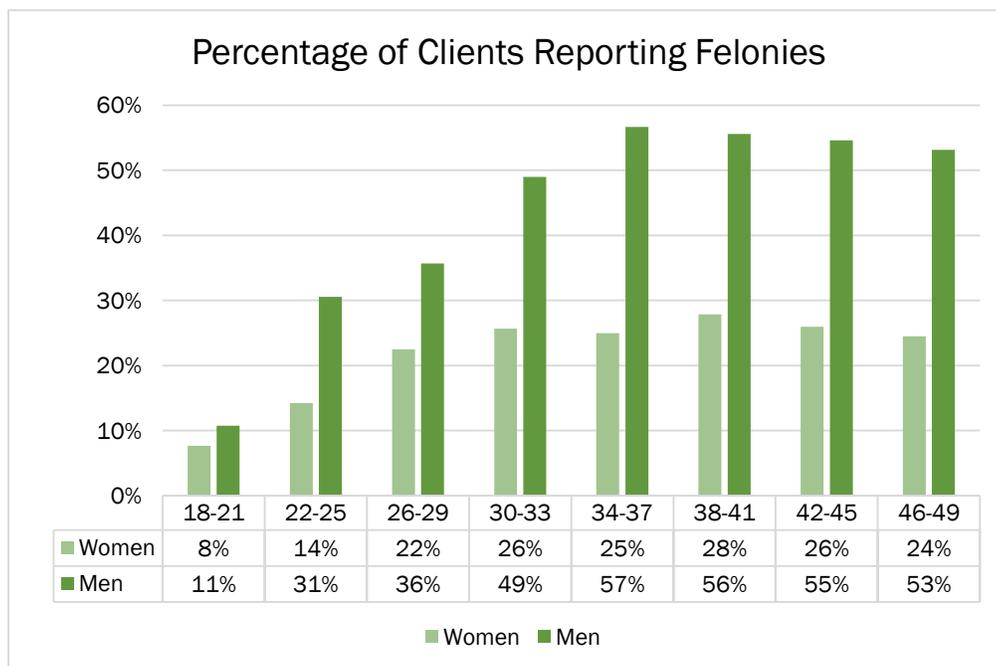


# Criminal History

As part of the ABAWD assessment, clients are asked if they are willing to complete an FBI/BCI background check. Over 96% of clients agree to comply with this request.

A history of criminal activity or previous incarceration can have an incredibly damaging impact. The stigma of a felony conviction can follow someone for a lifetime, even if their release is meant to suggest that they have been rehabilitated. These restored citizens miss out on many opportunities, job related or otherwise.

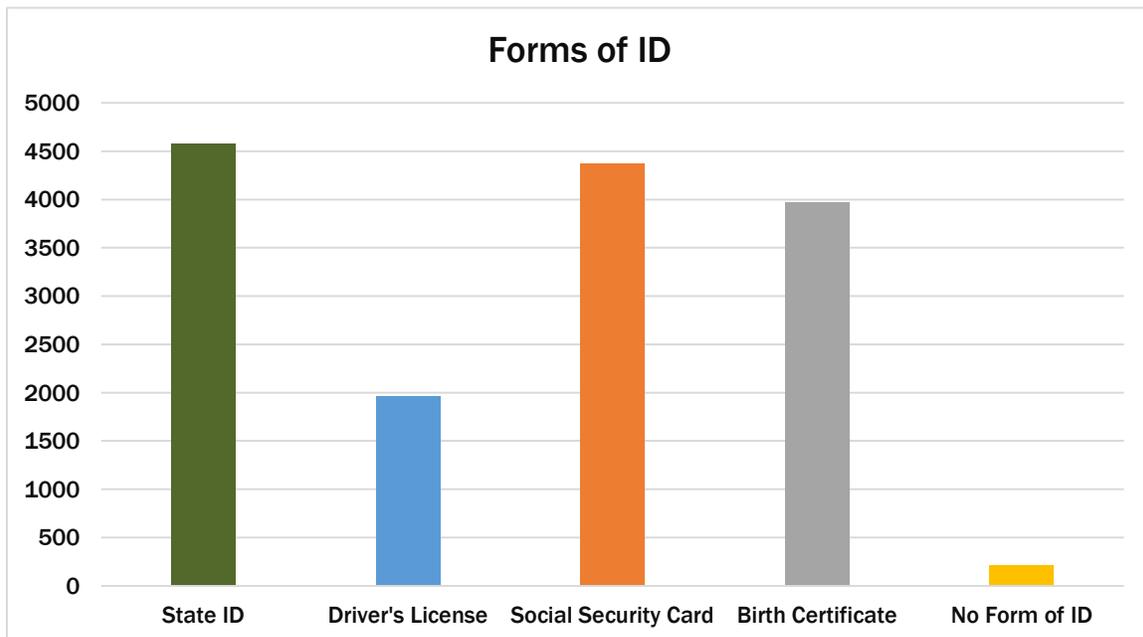
- Over 35.8% of the clients in our program reported having a felony conviction. Some clients have multiple felonies, or a combination of felonies and misdemeanors.
- Close to 12.8% of clients are on probation or parole which means they may not qualify for services offered through legal aid, such as record sealing.
- 541 clients (11.2%) have indicated that they have domestic violence charges.
- 709 clients (14.7%) reported having DUI or OVI violation. These types of violations can severely limit a client's ability to secure employment.



## Forms of ID

To apply for jobs, housing, and government benefits, to vote, or to obtain a driver's license, most agencies usually require two forms of Identification (ID). Because the association requires all participants to have an FBI and BCI background check to be placed at one of our host organizations we offer vouchers for clients to receive government issued state IDs when they indicate that they do not already have an ID.

- **4,578** clients (94.8%) have some form of State Identification.
  - 1,963 (40.7%) of clients have indicated that they have a driver's license.
  - 2,615 have indicated that their primary form of identification is a State ID.
  - 206 clients 4.3% indicated that they did not have any form of state identification.
- **4,369** clients (90.5%) reported having access to their Social Security card.
  - 370 clients (7.7%) do not have access to their Social Security card.
- **3,969** clients (82.2%) reported having access to their birth certificate.
  - An additional 752 (15.6%) do not have a birth certificate.



# Transportation

To assist with transportation, clients receive a monthly travel stipend from FCDJFS in the form of a \$62 check. Many clients report that they have not received the travel stipend. This could be due to an inaccurate mailing address, the inability to contact their caseworker, or a delay in dispersing of funds. Some clients report that the travel stipend is not enough to cover travel to and from work sites. Some clients do not have bank accounts and have to pay a service fee to cash the check they receive from FCDJFS, leaving an insufficient amount to purchase a monthly bus pass which the stipend should cover.

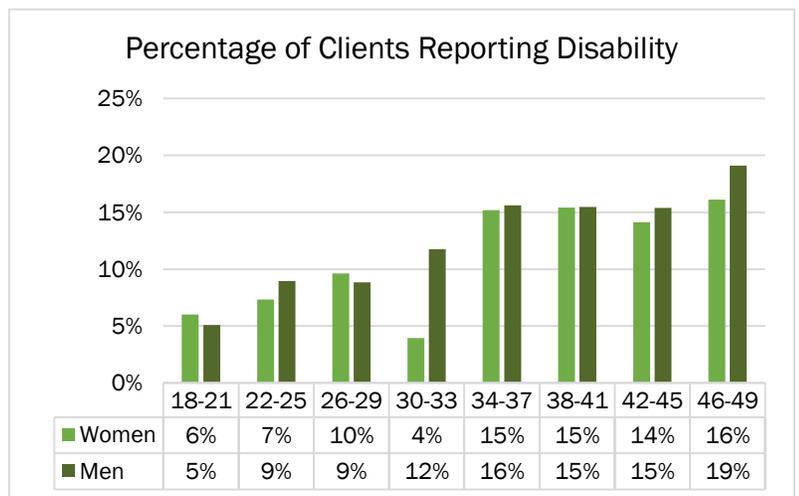
**2,749** clients (57.0%) said they have access to reliable transportation, whether it is their own vehicle, the COTA bus system, or a ride from friends and family members. It is important to note that the use of a friend or family member's vehicle may not always be reliable. Owning a vehicle may pose its own challenges for low-income populations, as the car could break down and the client may not have the means to fix it.

- 40% of clients said they do not have reliable transportation.
- **3,565** clients (73.9%) indicated that they live near a bus stop.
- 610 clients (12.6%) indicated that they did not live near a bus stop.
- Only **40%** of clients indicated that they have a valid driver's license, which indicates that clients are either using public transportation or are driving without a license.
  - Some clients may not be able to obtain a driver's license if they owe child support and have had their driving privileges suspended, or if they have outstanding tickets or unpaid fines which they may be unable to resolve with their limited income.
- **904** clients (18.7%) indicated that they did have car insurance.
  - An additional 3,232 clients (67.0%) indicated that they did not have car insurance, inferring that some are driving without insurance which can be attributed to a variety of factors, including affordability. As it is the law to maintain car insurance for any vehicles owned, some clients could be making the tough choice to pay for utilities, food, or medicine instead of car insurance.

# Disabilities and Limitations

“Able-bodied” indicates that clients should not be medically certified and documented as physically or mentally unfit for employment. As part of the assessment, clients are asked to self-report disabilities or limitations, both physical and mental.

- **598** ABAWD clients (12.4%) have self-reported a disability. Of these clients, 261 clients (44%) have indicated that they are not able to work and earn \$1010 a month, which could make them eligible for disability benefits.
  - 74 clients (12%) indicated that they are able to work and earn \$1,010 per month.
- **1 in 3** ABAWD clients (32.5%) have self-reported some type of physical or mental limitation. Of these clients, 25% (392) have indicated that their condition limits their ability to perform daily activities.
- 70.3% (1,102) indicated some type of physical limitation.
- 30.1% (471) indicated some type of mental limitation.

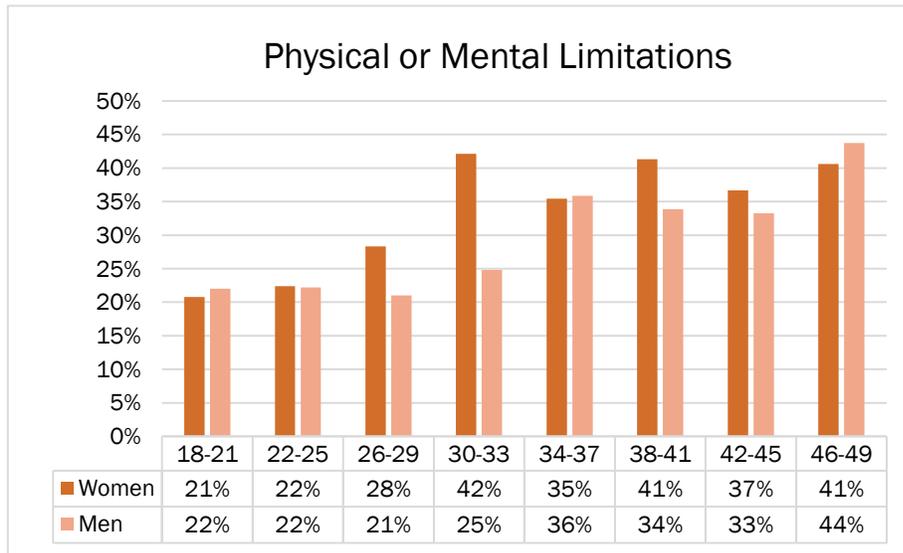


## Most Common Types of Physical and Mental Limitations Reported:

- Back Injuries 18.3%
- Respiratory Difficulties 6.0%
- Knee Injuries 5.9%
- Diabetes 3%
- Shoulder Injuries 2.8%
- Arthritis 2.5%
- Heart Conditions 2.3%
- Depression 10.1%
- Bipolar Disorder 9.3%
- Anxiety 8.1%
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder 3.1% (PTSD)
- Schizophrenia 1.5%

Additionally, a small percentage of clients reported physical difficulties due to crimes of violence.

- 27 reported physical difficulties as the result of gunshot wounds.
- 4 clients reported physical difficulties as the result of stab wounds.



## Social Security and Health Care

**1 in 5** ABAWD clients (18.6%) have reported filing for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI). Of these clients, most have reported filing in the last two years:

- 82 (9%) reported filing in 2015
- 333 (37%) reported filing in 2014
- 155 (17%) reported filing in 2013
- 114 (13%) applied in 2012
- 223 (25%) applied in 2011 or earlier

**1 in 4** clients (25.0%) indicated said they were under a doctor's care, and 1,347 clients (27.9%) indicated that they were currently on medications.

**Nearly 6 in 10** clients (58.2%) have reported already applying for Medicaid, although all clients may be eligible to receive this expanded necessary health coverage due to their low-income status. 1,950 clients (40.4%) said they had not applied for Medicaid. As part of our outreach process, we invite health care navigators to our monthly WEP events to help clients sign up for health coverage.

## Children and Families

According to the USDA definition of an ABAWD, it is assumed that all clients do not have dependents. We found that clients with children, although not in their custody, still spend time parenting their children on a regular basis while the custodial parent works.

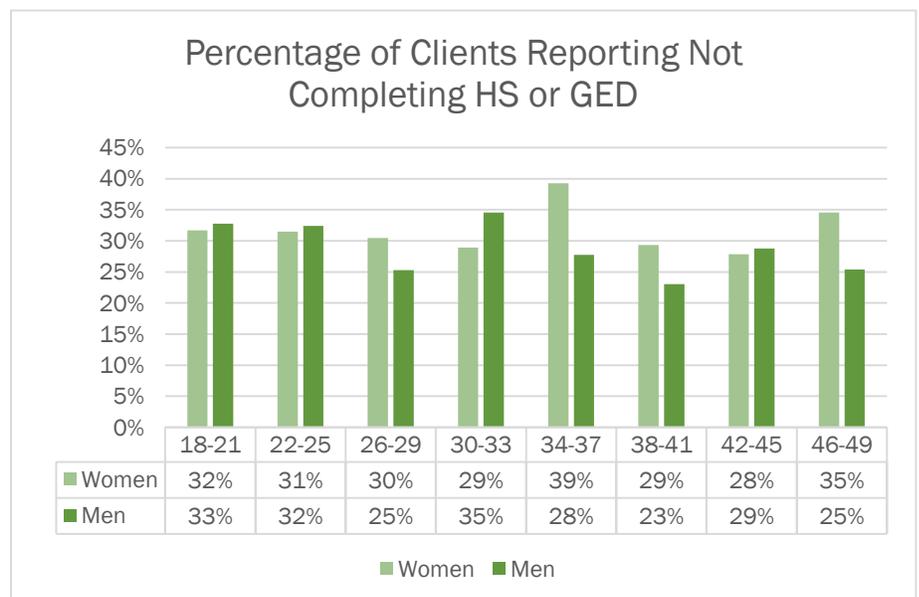
- **1 in 4 clients (23.5%)** indicated that they had **children not in their custody**.
- **868 clients (18.0%)** indicated that they **owe child support**.
- **86 clients (1.8%)** indicated that they **need childcare**.

Having the status of caregiver to a relative should potentially exempt an individual from participating in WEP. Caregivers can often replace the services of a Medicaid or Medicare home-healthcare provider. **618 clients (12.8%)** indicated that they are caregivers for a parent, friend, or relative.

## Education

Many of the clients in this population have not earned a degree or certification to work in industries that pay more than entry level wages.

- **3,342 clients (69.2%)** report having earned a high school diploma or GED.
- **1,424 (29.5%)** of clients report never having graduated high school.



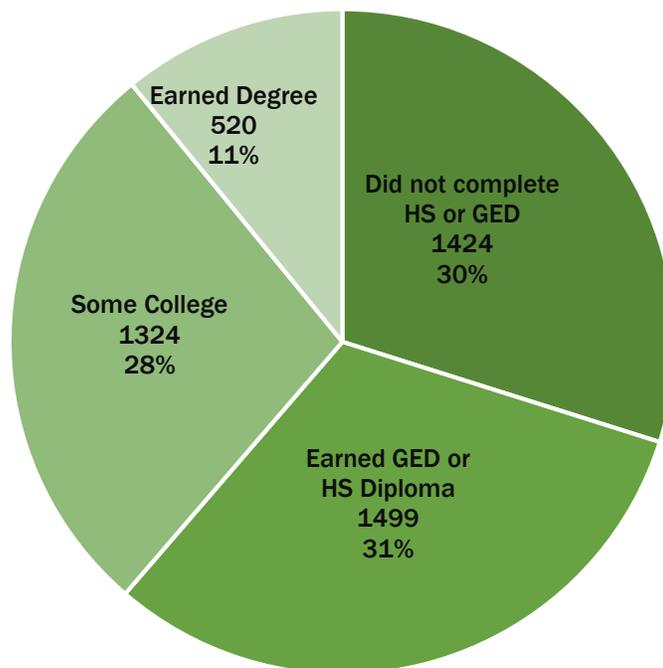
Of those students that did not earn a GED or high school diploma:

- 121 (2.5%) report having attended last in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- 404 (8.4%) report having attended last in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- 316 (6.5%) report having attended last in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade
- 190 (3.9%) report having attended last in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade
- 86 (1.8%) report having left school before high school
- 5 clients (0.1%) report never having attended school before

## College Education

Of the students who earned either a high school diploma or GED, an additional 1,324 (28%) attended college, and an additional 520 (11%) earned some type of degree or certification.

Highest Level of Education of ABAWD Clients



# Employment

Working 20 or more hours of paid employment per week, every week can exempt an ABAWD from participating in WEP.

- **547** clients (11.3%) indicated that they are **currently working**.
  - 16 clients (2.9%) indicate that they are working less than 10 hours per week
  - 62 clients (11.3%) indicate that they are working 10-20 hours per week
  - 75 clients (13.7%) indicate that they are working 20-30 hours per week
  - 34 clients (6.2%) indicate that they are working 30-40 hours per week
  - 23 clients (4.2%) indicate that they are working over 40 hours a week
  - 337 clients (61.1%) did not indicate how many hours they were working

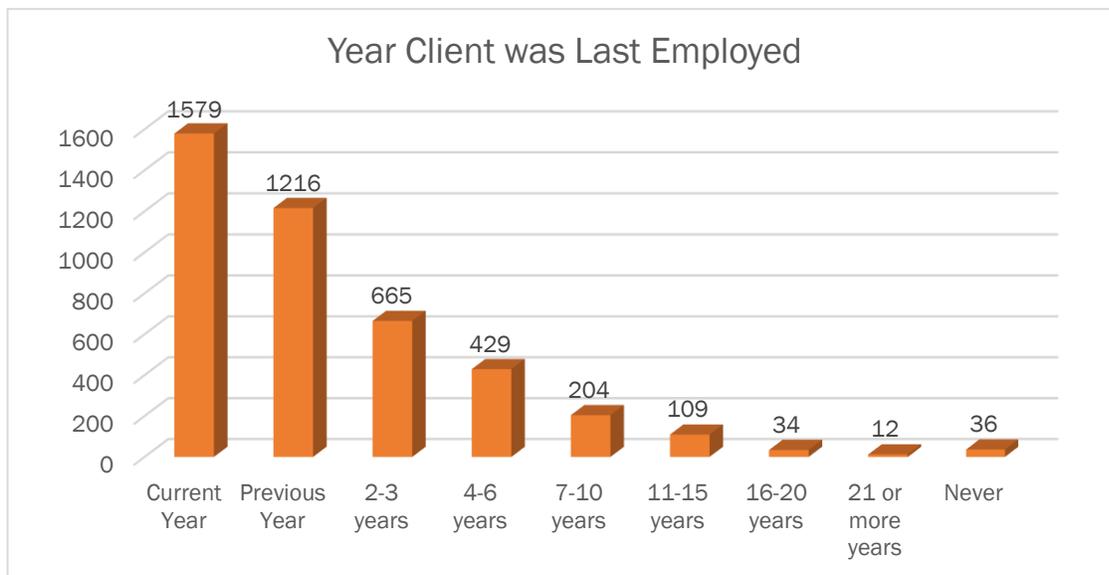
At least 91 clients (**1.9%**) reported that they generally work for **temporary employment agencies** (including day labor and labor pool agencies). These clients may be unable to identify how many hours they work per week due to inconsistent scheduling and availability of consistent job assignments. Because of this, clients may not be able to regularly fulfill the 20 hour work requirement to qualify for an exemption.

## Most Common Employment Industry

- Warehouse Work (including pick/pack, forklift)
- Customer Service
- Food Service (including fast food, restaurants, cooking, and food preparation)
- Janitorial and Cleaning
- Construction (including carpentry, masonry, drywall, and electric)

## Employment History

Having gaps in a resume can influence an employer's decision in the hiring process, which can negatively impact a client's chances of obtaining employment. Of the 4,284 clients who reported the time since they were last employed, 1,579 (36.8%) reported working last sometime within the current year. An additional 1,216 clients (28.4%) reported working last in the previous year, 665 clients (15.5%) reported working last within the last 2-3 years, 429 (10.1%) reported working last within 4-6 years, 204 (4.8%) reported working last within the last 7-10 years, 109 clients (2.5%) reported working last between 11-15 years, 34 clients (0.7%) reported working last within the last 16-20 years, 12 clients (0.3%) reported working last over 20 years ago, and 36 clients (0.8%) reported having never worked before.



## In-Kind Work

Just as traditional employment can exempt a client from participating in WEP, in-kind work may qualify clients from an exemption as well. **402** clients (8.3%) reported **working in-kind** for food or housing.

- 67 clients (16.7%) reported working less than 10 hours per week
- 84 clients (20.9%) reported working 10 to 19 hours per week
- 82 clients (20.4%) reporting working 20 to 29 hours per week
- 21 clients (5.2%) reported working 30 to 39 hours per week
- 28 clients (7.0%) reported working 40 or more hours per week
- 120 clients (29.8%) did not report the number of hours they were working per week

## Employment Assistance

The ABAWD assessment screens for additional assistance or equipment clients may need to perform tasks at their worksite.

- **435** clients (9.0%) indicated that they needed **special accommodations** at their worksite in order to do a job. The most commonly requested accommodations were **no heavy lifting** and **no standing or walking** for long periods of time.
- **757** clients (15.7%) indicated that they need **supportive services** to obtain employment. The most commonly requested services were **language interpretation** (especially for Somalian refugees) and help with **transportation**.

## Workforce Development

In an effort to offer more job seeking resources to clients, they are referred to Ohio Means Jobs ([www.ohiomeansjobs.com](http://www.ohiomeansjobs.com)). **7 in 10** clients indicated that they were not registered to work through Ohio Means Jobs website. This shows that the outreach for the Ohio Means Jobs website has been ineffective in reaching this population.

We assist clients with creating resumes so they are able to take them to career fairs and apply for jobs that require resumes.

- 2,594 clients (53.8%) indicated that they did not have a current resume.
- **2,183** clients (**45.2%**) indicated that they would like **help to write or update their resume**.
- 2,410 clients (49.9%) indicated that they were not interested in help to write or update their resume.

## Unemployment Compensation Benefits

Many job applications ask if applicants have ever been fired or dismissed from a previous position. **1 in 4** clients (24.0%) reported having been previously **fired or dismissed from a job**. When this question appears on a job application it can be a deterrent for employers to hire an applicant.

We inquire if clients have ever received unemployment compensation benefits, as this can qualify them for an exemption in participating in WEP if they are still receiving it. Nearly **8 in 10** clients (**78.3%**) reported that they have **never received unemployment compensation benefits**.

- 886 clients (18.4%) reported that they are receiving or have received unemployment compensation, ranging in time from 1984 to February 2015.

# Work Experience Program

Immediate program goals for WEP participants are to actively ensure viable work opportunities for ABAWDs in Franklin County to fulfill the work requirement to maintain their SNAP benefits and prepare ABAWDs for reentry into the workforce. The long-term goals and objectives for WEP participants are focused on decreasing unemployment among Franklin County ABAWDs to break systemic cycles of poverty and hunger and ensure clients can become economically self-sufficient.

## Consistent Outreach

During the initial ABAWD assessment at the FCDJFS opportunity centers, clients are given information about job openings and job fairs in Franklin County. When we find that one of the many barriers the assessment is meant to capture is stifling a client in their attempt to secure employment, we refer them to clothing banks, resources for homelessness, mental health facilities, educational opportunities, and food pantries.

All new clients are required to attend a WEP employment and resource fair their first month in the program. We bring together employers (with assistance from FCDJFS Workforce Development and Franklin County Economic Development), health care navigators and certified application counselors, Legal Aid Society of Columbus lawyers, workforce development agencies, GED and adult education or vocational training organizations, and many more stakeholders to ensure we are able to offer clients a variety of valuable services.

At this event, clients also receive a required background check for their job placements. They participate in hands-on activities and receive assistance with filling out job applications and creating or updating resumes, assistance with using computers, and referrals to obtain suiting for job interviews.



Many clients  
who attend our  
monthly job and  
resource fair  
leave with jobs!



# WEP Volunteer Host Sites

The recruitment process for developing new sites involves calling, mailing, e-mailing, and visiting numerous nonprofit and faith-based organizations in Franklin County. Each organization is required to sign a Memorandum of Agreement, establishing a strong partnership that also holds these organizations accountable for reporting hours for clients.

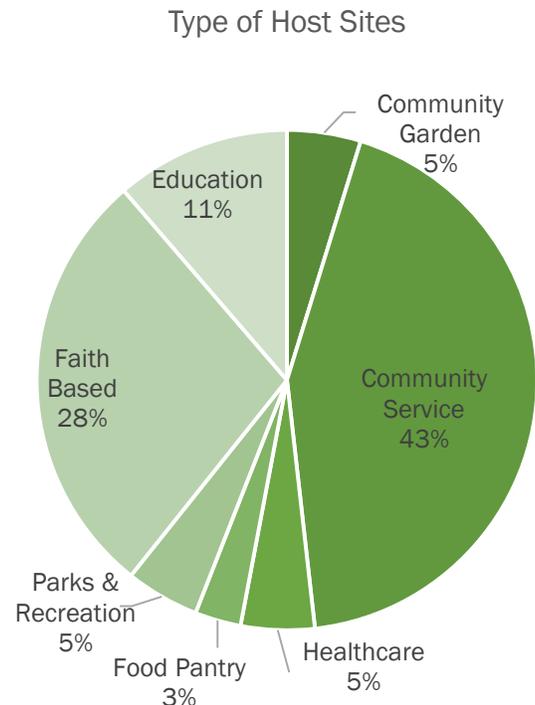
Each volunteer experience through WEP is intended to give participants training, education, or experience that would be beneficial in an ABAWD's search for future employment. Some sites even report hiring WEP workers when they have open positions available.

A list of possible volunteer roles could include but is not limited to:

- Janitorial Work
- Painting
- Grounds Maintenance & Landscaping
- Warehouse Positions
- Office and Clerical Work
- Manual Labor
- Customer Service
- Food Preparation and Service

“One of our WEP clients began working at the Broad Street Food Pantry in October 2014 as part of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks Work Experience Program. From the time she started, she demonstrated excellent work ethics – never missing a day, always working hard and making sure that customers were served efficiently, the shelves kept full, and the pantry kept clean and neat. Last winter when our assistant moved on to another job, our WEP client was one of the first candidates we identified. After a thorough search, we hired her for the permanent position.”

*-Kathy Kelly-Long, Broad Street Food Pantry Director*





***WEP participants paint a mural at Fusion Bakery and Cafe***

## **Placements**

Our network of nonprofits, workforce development partners, and faith-based organizations make it possible for Franklin County ABAWDs to obtain their required work hours through volunteer service or job readiness activities, while also offering work experience. Placements are made at these organizations after clients have completed a background check at the WEP monthly employment and resource fair.

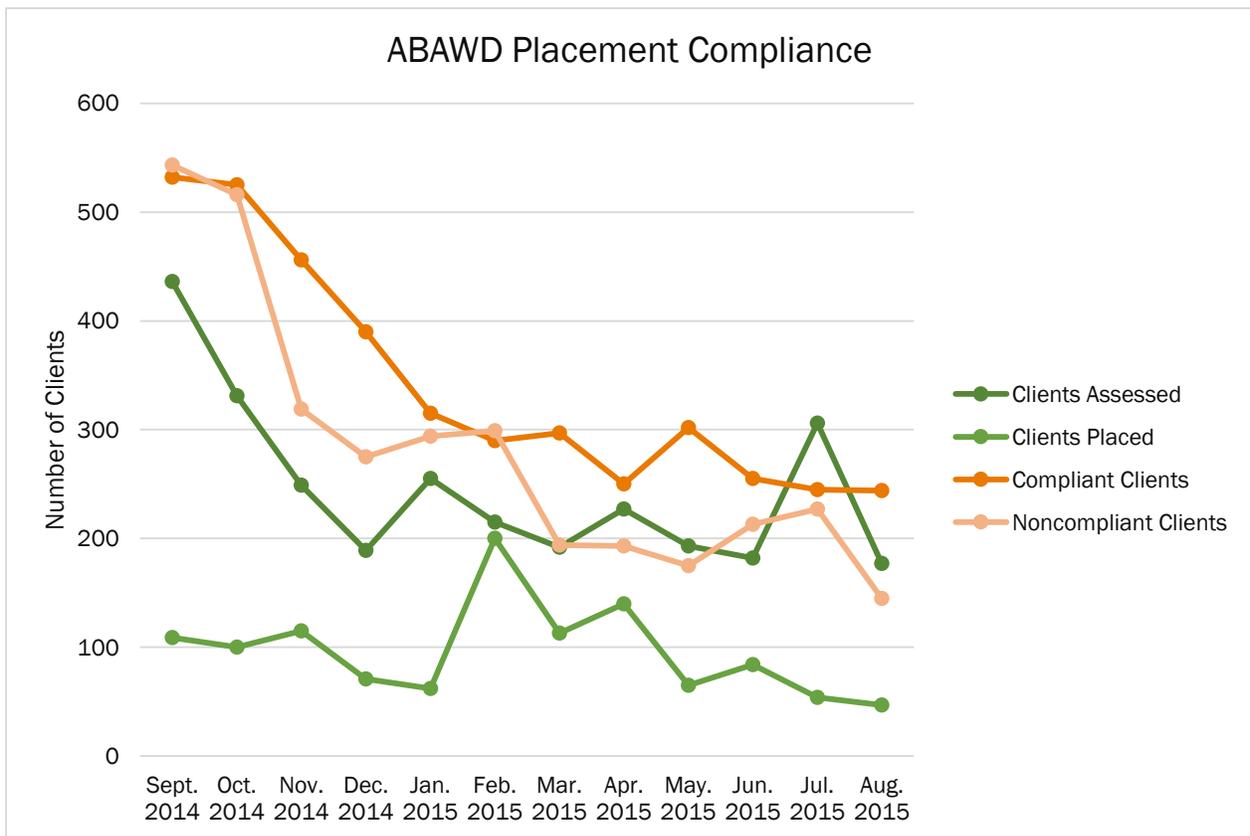
The Ohio Association of Foodbanks requires clients to have a background check to ensure that we are not placing clients in situations that may compromise the integrity of our partners, and to protect their clients and staff in the event of a known conflict of interest. Clients are not eligible to be placed at a volunteer host site until their FBI/BCI background check is received.

Through the assessment process we gather an inventory of job skills from each clients. We are able to determine what jobs would best suit that client, and strategically place them at sites where we believe they will thrive. We do make accommodations for any client that is already volunteering in the community, and make an attempt to bring their volunteer site on as a host organization so that the client can maintain their relationship with that organization.

## ABWAD Placement Compliance

At times, it can be very difficult to place clients at a volunteer site. If the host location is not on the bus line or if it is not easily accessible by public transportation, clients can have a hard time getting to their placement. Some host sites even require a college education or degree, which many of our clients do not have. Some sites have a list of restricted felonies which would limit a large portion of our clients from volunteering with those sites. The same is true for workforce development programs. Many clients do not meet the minimum education requirements to enroll in such programs, or struggle with passing an entrance exam.

The Ohio Association of Foodbanks placement specialist makes every effort to place all clients, no matter how limiting their personal situations may be. Even with the best effort to make sure that a client's skills match the site's needs, and that the location is less than an hour bus ride from their address, not all clients report to their assigned placements each month. In order for a client to remain compliant with WEP they must report to their worksite for 23 hours per month. When a client fails their work requirement hours they are sanctioned and at risk of losing their monthly SNAP benefits.





# Recommendations

As we bring light to the situations this population faces, we are able to make the following insightful recommendations which are supported by the findings of the WEP assessment data. These recommendations have been presented to FCDJFS after the first analysis of this information. They are meant to encourage other government organizations to consider a further examination of the implication of programs like WEP.

## **Program Next Steps**

The specific program needs of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks will enhance the overall client experience while strengthening relationships with our partners.

- Coordinate with other Departments of Job and Family Services statewide in an effort to replicate the positive results we have seen in Franklin County, to expand this program to other metro and rural areas.
- Increase the efficiency of our program in order to enhance client satisfaction and success while working with very limited resources.
- Coordinate with Franklin County to offer more opportunities for clients to connect with available employment and training.
- Improve quality assurance measures and outcomes as well as communication channels between the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, clients, host sites, and Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services.

## **Increase Oversight to Improve Effectiveness**

- Analyze the expenditures of Workforce Development Programs funded by FCDJFS compared to outcomes. WEP at the Ohio Association of Foodbanks has proven a 24% success rate, compared to a 16% success rate of similar government funded workforce programs in Franklin County.

## **Provide Additional Funding to Organizations Supporting WEP**

- When clients fail a WEP assignment and do not have access to their food stamp benefits, they may begin utilizing the services of their local emergency food programs. This warrants more emergency funding to be provided to Mid-Ohio Foodbank to support the purchase, acquisition, and distribution of additional food for Franklin County food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and churches who are feeding the individuals affected.
- Utilize banked months of exemptions (estimated at 405,000) to reenroll participants in the food assistance program while Departments of Job and Family Services work to establish additional work experience program infrastructure.
- Provide additional funding to the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to support the cost of emergency vouchers for transportation, travel vouchers, and basic needs.
- To increase interest in becoming a part of the host site network, there needs to be more incentive for organizations to serve ABAWDs through WEP. By offering operating support to the nonprofit and faith-based organizations that are providing WEP services and slots, we can motivate more sites to partner with the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, while current sites may be able to effectively increase their capacity to serve more ABAWDs.
- Provide supplemental support for the continuation, expansion, and analysis of workforce development programs operated by the Ohio Association of Foodbanks for young adults aging out of the foster care system. All youth who successfully complete these programs either enroll in school or start working, which in many cases exempts them from participating in WEP as ABAWDs.
- Improve the funding and training of a specialized unit dedicated to the implementation of this work requirement and the ABAWD population's specific needs.

## **Study the Social and Economic Impact of WEP**

- Monitor and report on the impacts to well-being, health, and safety of clients, WEP host site staff/volunteers, and the community at large.
- Conduct an Economic Impact Analysis on the loss of food assistance/SNAP benefit issuance on the Franklin County economy.
- Provide funding for comprehensive case-management, longitudinal tracking of employment, wages, public assistance participation, and well-being of the ABAWD population.

## **Provide More Work Support Opportunities for ABAWDs**

- Expand enrollment, participation, and successful completion of nationally certified programs such as the FastPath program at Columbus State Community College, including ServSafe, customer service, advanced logistics, and STNA.
- Create an employment enterprise or pipeline into strategic aspects of the job market. This will help harder-to-employ individuals find opportunities to gain sustainable employment.
- Prioritize Workforce Investment Act funding to provide education, training, and supportive services to ensure a seamless delivery of services.
- Establish a relationship with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in order to address the specific concerns of the employer community in regard to the future employment of felons.
- Examine opportunities to secure additional USDA/SNAP Employment and Training funds to enhance service delivery.

## **Examine and Evaluate the Needs of Special Populations**

- Provide support and funding for a study on the mental and physical health status and outcomes of the ABAWD population and their utilization of Medicaid.
- Fund person-centered, community-based case management of ABAWDs applying for SSI/SSDI, and supportive services including Legal Aid assistance to non-custodial parents and individuals with criminal charges and felony convictions.
- Convene a study group to examine the impact of temporary and day labor employment services and its effects on this population.
- The Ohio Association of Foodbanks will continue to analyze assessments and data including current and previous encounters with the criminal justice system, community impact, and these associated costs.

# Host Site Partner Organizations

Without the support of our wonderful network of nonprofit and faith-based organizations we could not offer so many meaningful volunteer opportunities to ABAWDs in Franklin County. We extend our sincere gratitude to each organization for their continued partnership and dedication to serving the community.

- Agora Ministries
- Authority of the Believers
- Beatty Recreation Center
- Brice UMC
- Bridge Community Center
- Broad Street Food Pantry
- Broad Street UMC
- Calhoun Memorial Temple
- Cat Welfare Association
- Catique
- Center for Family Safety
- Chalmers P Wylie VA Ambulatory Care Center
- Charitable Pharmacy of Central Ohio, Inc.
- Child Development Council of Franklin County
- Christ Harvest Church
- City of Whitehall
- Clintonville Beechwold
- Colony Cats (& dogs)
- Columbus Arts Technology Academy
- Columbus Chosen Generation Ministries
- Columbus Growing Collective
- Columbus Humanities Arts & Technology Academy
- Columbus Urban League
- Community Kitchen, Inc.
- Core Resource Center, Inc.
- East Columbus Development Company
- EL Hardy Center
- Family Missionary Baptist Church
- Franklinton Gardens
- Genesis of Good Samaritans Ministries
- Glory Praise & Help Center
- Greater Ebenezer Cathedral of Praise and Kingdom Kids Daycare
- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore
- Hands On Central Ohio
- Heart Food Pantry
- Heart of Christ Community Church
- Helping Hands Health And Wellness Center, Inc.
- Holy Family Soup Kitchen
- House of Refuge for All People
- HUB Community Development Corporation
- J Ashburn Jr Youth Center
- King Arts Complex MLK
- Kingdom Alive Word Church

- Libraries for Liberia Foundation
- Long Lasting Community Development
- Loving Hands Learning Center
- Lutheran Social Services Ohio Benefit Bank – SOUTH
- Lutheran Social Services Ohio Benefit Bank – WEST
- Magic Johnson Bridgescape Academy - New Beginnings
- Mock Rd University for Children
- National Parkinson Foundation Central & Southeast OH
- New Salem Baptist Church and Community Development
- NNEMAP, Inc.
- Ohio Association of Foodbanks
- Ohio Business Development Center
- Ohio Empowerment Coalition
- Pri-Value Foundation
- Project Redeem
- R F Hairston Early Learning Center
- Reeb-Hossack Community Baptist Church
- Seven Baskets Community Development Corp
- Shiloh Christian Center
- Short North Stage at The Garden Theater
- Society Of St Vincent De Paul
- Soldiers of Life Food Pantry
- Somali Bantu Youth Community of Ohio
- Southeast Friends of the Homeless
- Southeast, Inc.
- St Dominic Roman Catholic Church
- St Marks United Methodist Church
- St Philip Episcopal Church Food Pantry
- St Stephens Community House
- Stoddart Avenue Community Garden
- Temple Israel
- Trinity Assembly
- United House of Prayer
- Unity of Columbus
- Welcome Home Ohio
- Wesley Church of Hope UMC