



Findlay · Hancock County
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

FINDLAY·HANCOCK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

January 2024

Chris Keller Joins Economic Development Team



Findlay•Hancock County Economic Development is announcing Chris Keller is joining the team as *Director of Strategic Initiatives*. Chris left a successful commercial real estate business, escrowing her license, to assume the new role. In addition to being the former president of Bluffton Hospital (part of Blanchard Valley Health System), Chris spent most of her twenty-four-year career as a senior executive in the Health Care delivery space and has expertise in business development and operational efficiencies. Her broad understanding of challenges facing business to drive operational value will be a great asset to the FHCED office.

Chris received her B.A. from The Ohio State University and her MBA from the University of Findlay. She serves and continues to serve multiple organizations in the community including Handbags that Help, Open Arms, Findlay YMCA, Revolving Loan Fund, Rotary International, Miracle League of Findlay, American Red Cross and the Findlay-Hancock County Alliance.

Chris's responsibilities as *Director of Strategic Initiatives* will be to support the Economic Development team in all activities including company retention and expansion, strategic new company attraction, workforce development, community planning, small business assistance, and downtown Findlay development. Key initiatives will include leading tactical business outreach, retail, commercial and residential developer engagement and expanding Foreign Trade Zone opportunities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOCUS THIS MONTH

Retention & Expansion |



On January 9th, Whirlpool Corporation announced it entered into agreements with One Energy, a Findlay based industrial power company and Economic Development Council member, to add onsite wind and solar power at its Findlay and Clyde, Ohio operations. The company currently has nine onsite wind turbines at four of its Ohio plants in Findlay, Marion, Greenville and Ottawa. Combined, those turbines supply 22 percent of the electrical needs for those facilities. These two projects are among the largest behind-the-meter renewable energy projects in the U.S., and once complete will ensure the Clyde and Findlay plants receive at least 70 percent of their energy needs from onsite renewable energy.

The expansion project involves three additional turbines at the company's Findlay operations, bringing its total number of onsite turbines to five. A ground solar array will also be installed. The projects combined will create 40.8 megawatts of renewable energy.

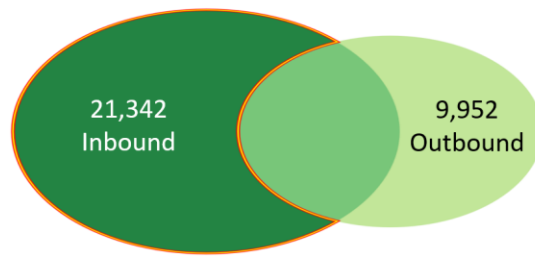
Attraction |

Project Inkjet eyes Findlay. Inkjet is a South Korean technology company in the LCD backlight over liquid crystal and the Organic LED space. OLED is an advanced technology producing light emitting diodes which consumes less power than traditional liquid crystal displays. The company uses a photo lithography and vacuum chamber process. In addition to this technology, the company would focus locally precision metal processing utilized in the EV lithium battery space.

Customers include LGChem, LGDisplay, LGElectronic, Samsung and Sharp to name a few. This is an excellent example of the type of supply-chain technology company FHCED is interested in attracting. Initially the company will look to construct or retrofit an existing space of approximately 50,000 square feet complete with R&D space, large production positive pressure clean room, office and associate cafeteria. The company would initially employ 40-50-associates.

Workforce Migration-Hancock County

47,705 - Regional Employment



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2021

Community Planning |

Flood Mitigation Update

In November 2009, the voters of Hancock County passed a .25% sales tax to be utilized for flood mitigation. The sales tax generated more than \$32,000,000 over a ten-year period. In addition, the community has received financial support from the Federal and State Governments. Local, State and Federal investments have supported the completion of the following: purchase of properties which had regular significant damage due to flooding, transportation corridor improvements to ensure safety service accessibility throughout the county and phase I river benching. In addition to the projects completed there are three major projects in the design phase: widening of the Norfolk Southern Railroad Bridge from 150' to 300', the Eagle Creek Flood Basin and Phase 2 Benching east of the Norfolk Southern bridge. Following the completion of the benching projects, NS bridge expansion and the Eagle Creek Basin there will be a decrease of flood waters by 3ft in downtown Findlay during a 100-year storm event as well as the removal of hundreds of parcels and hundreds of acres of tillable farmland from the 100-year flood plain.

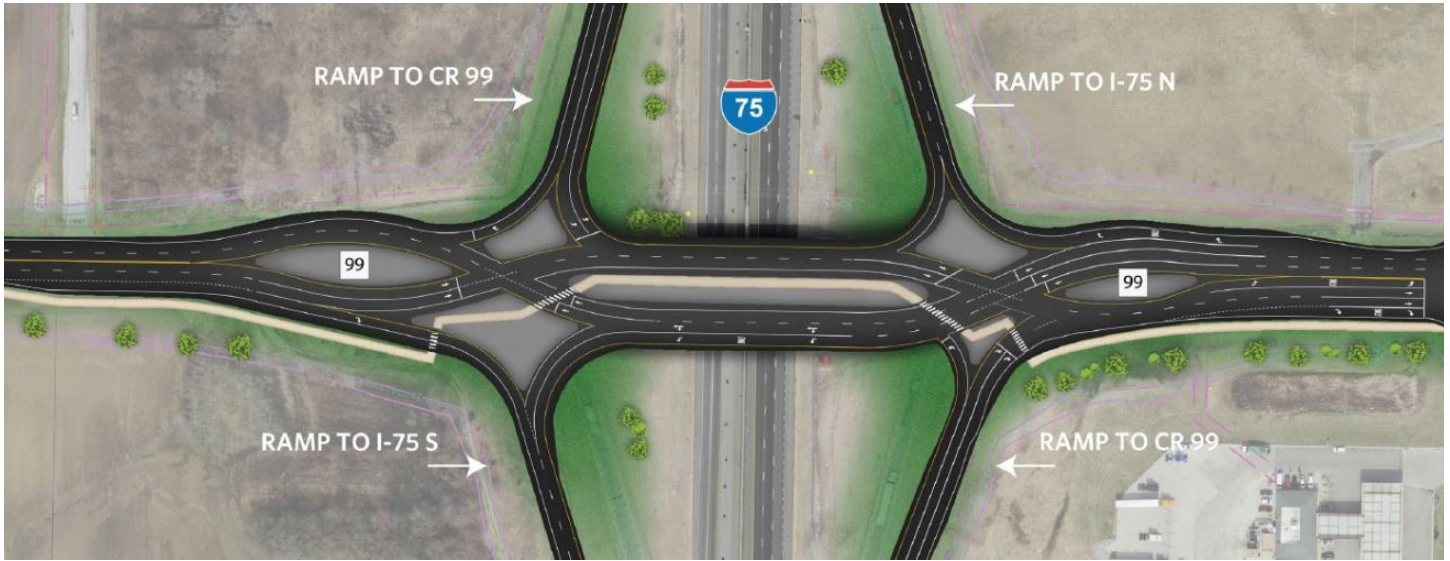
Although a significant amount of funding has been secured to complete the Eagle Creek Basin, Phase II Benching and the NS Bridge, there is still funding needed to complete all of the projects.

To date there have been multiple sources of funding secured to complete the projects.

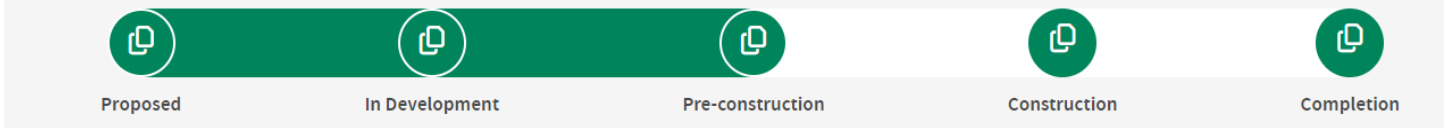
- NS Railroad Bridge – The Federal Government has awarded a \$7,100,000 RAISE grant to be utilized for the construction of the railroad bridge. After the RAISE grant was awarded the construction costs rose significantly and the grant is not indexed to increased costs. The increased cost has created a shortage of funds to complete the project. Norfolk Southern is being asked to close 100% of the remaining gap to replace this 100-year-old bridge.
- Phase II Benching – The County Commissioners have over \$6,000,000 remaining in the sales tax fund that was generated over a ten-year period from 2009-2019. The sales tax remaining is sufficient to cover the cost of Phase II Benching.
- Eagle Creek Storage Basin – The State of Ohio has awarded \$60,000,000 to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources to complete the Eagle Creek Storage Basin
- In 2023 the City of Findlay approved \$2,500,000 in capital funding to be utilized for flood mitigation.

To secure funding and complete construction of the three remaining projects a request will be placed before Findlay City Council in February to submit a Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Application.

Hancock Diamond update



Project Status



Anticipated construction start: March 2024
Anticipated construction completion: September 2025

Other |

From Site Selection Magazine – January 2024

How to Beat Brain Drain in the Midwest
Business builders share tips from Heartland harbors of tech growth.

<https://siterelection.com/issues/2024/jan/how-to-beat-brain-drain-in-the-midwest.cfm>

11 NW Ohio County Statistical Area

Allen, Auglaize, Crawford, Hancock, Hardin, Lucas, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, Wyandot

1,021,733

Population (2023)

516,741

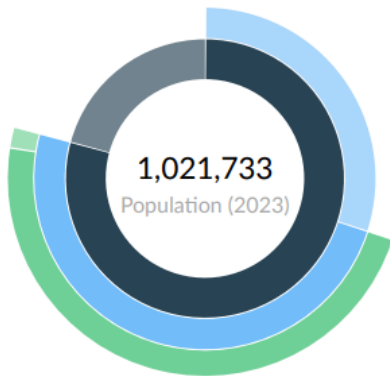
Total Regional Employment

\$67.1K

Avg. Earnings Per Job (2023)

	Population (2023)	Labor Force (Sep 2023)	Jobs (2023)	Cost of Living	GRP	Imports	Exports
Region	1,021,733	502,671	516,741	93.8	\$68.42B	\$81.84B	\$95.84B
State	11,797,529	5,789,661	5,989,979	92.4	\$797.22B	\$633.93B	\$789.52B

Sep 2023 Labor Force Breakdown



	Population
● 16+ Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	808,425
● Not in Labor Force (16+)	305,754
● Labor Force	502,671
● Employed	485,190
● Unemployed	17,481
● Under 16, Military, and institutionalized Population	213,307

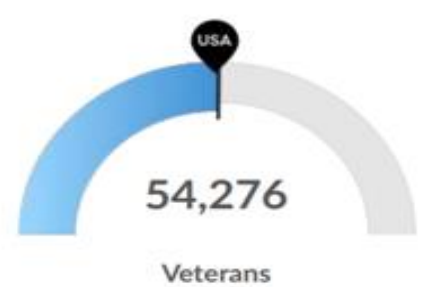
Educational Attainment

Concerning educational attainment, **16.6%** of the selected regions' residents possess a **Bachelor's Degree** (4.5% below the national average), and **10.7%** hold an **Associate's Degree** (1.8% above the national average).



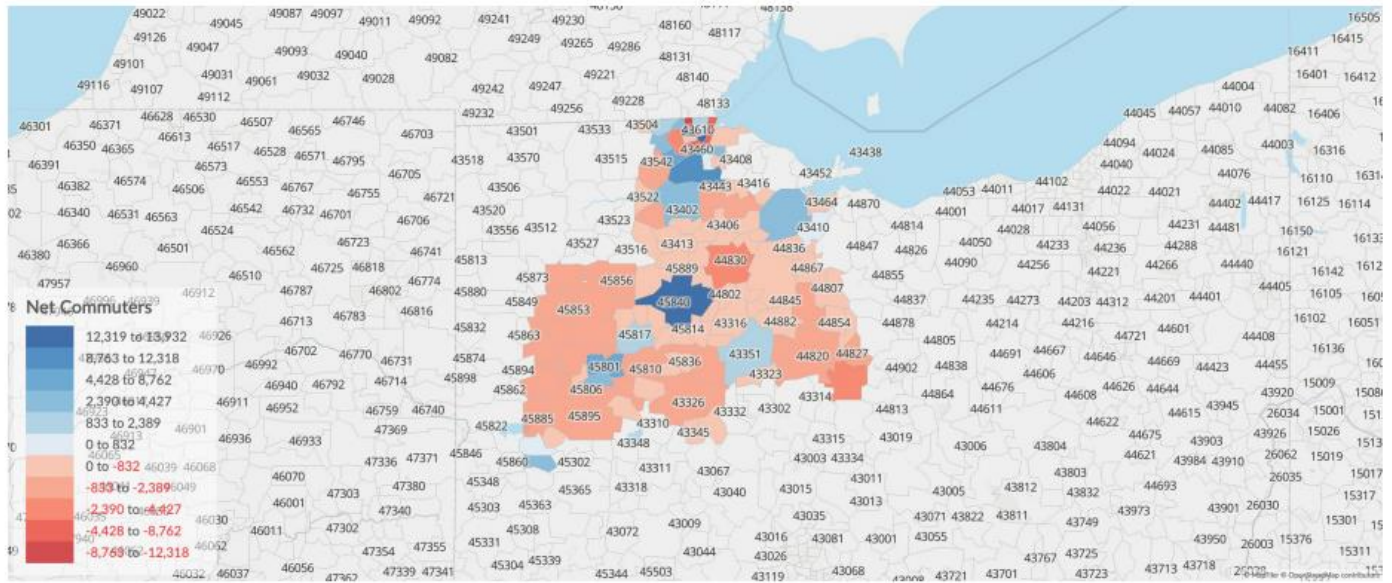
	% of Population	Population
Less Than 9th Grade	2.0%	13,786
9th Grade to 12th Grade	5.5%	37,962
High School Diploma	34.9%	241,174
Some College	20.4%	141,160
Associate's Degree	10.7%	74,019
Bachelor's Degree	16.6%	114,468
Graduate Degree and Higher	9.8%	67,942

Population Characteristics



Place of Work vs Place of Residence

Understanding where talent in the region currently works compared to where talent lives can help you optimize site decisions.



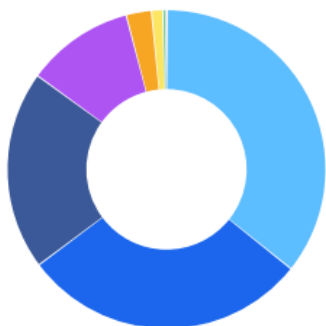
Where Talent Works

Where Talent Lives

ZIP	Name	2023 Employment
45840	Findlay, OH (in Hancock...	42,547
43551	Perrysburg, OH (in Woo...	32,491
43606	Toledo, OH (in Lucas co...	23,833
43537	Maumee, OH (in Lucas ...	22,446
43560	Sylvania, OH (in Lucas c...	21,835

ZIP	Name	2023 Workers
45840	Findlay, OH (in Hancock...	28,615
43551	Perrysburg, OH (in Woo...	23,405
43560	Sylvania, OH (in Lucas c...	19,805
43615	Toledo, OH (in Lucas co...	19,211
43537	Maumee, OH (in Lucas ...	16,388

Business Size

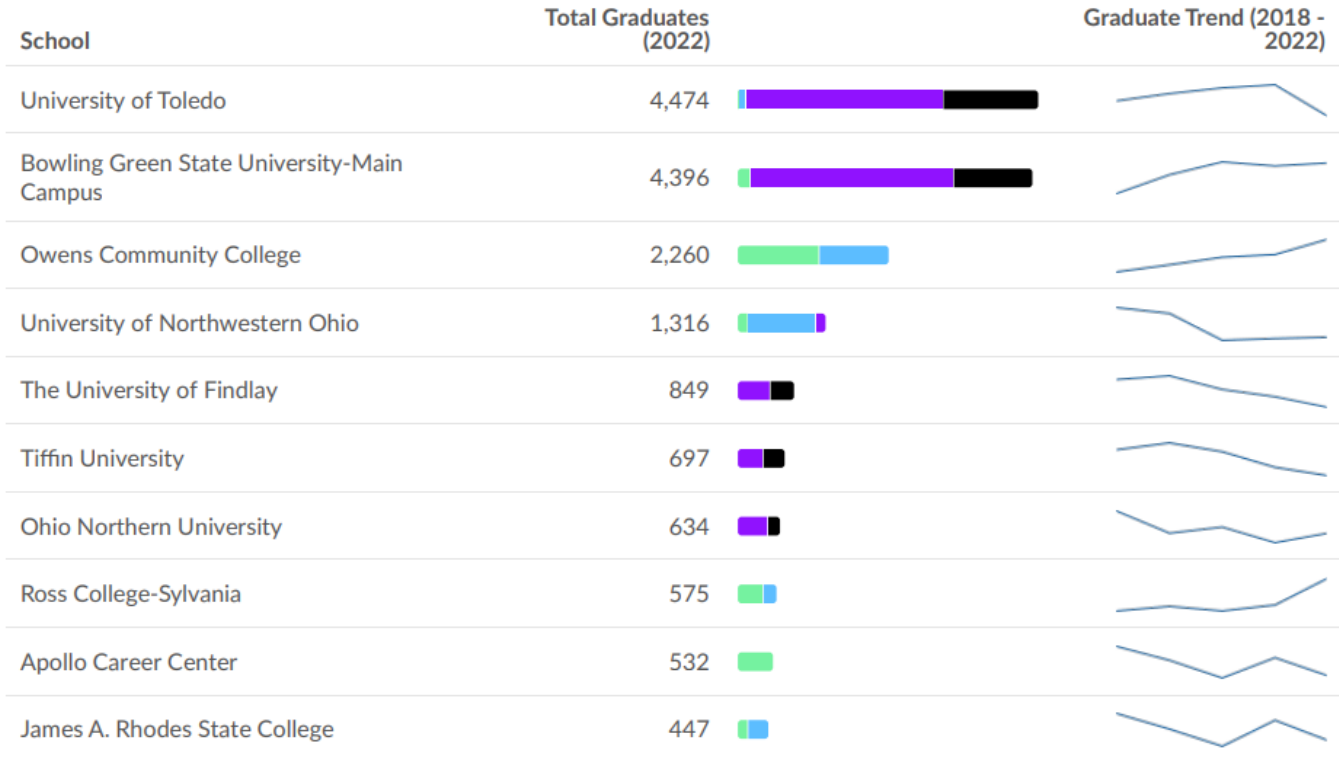


	Percentage	Business Count
● 1 to 4 employees	35.6%	13,349
● 5 to 9 employees	29.1%	10,882
● 10 to 19 employees	20.2%	7,565
● 20 to 49 employees	10.9%	4,096
● 50 to 99 employees	2.6%	962
● 100 to 249 employees	1.1%	426
● 250 to 499 employees	0.3%	102
● 500+ employees	0.2%	65

**Business Data by DatabaseUSA.com is third-party data provided by Lightcast to its customers as a convenience, and Lightcast does not endorse or warrant its accuracy or consistency with other published Lightcast data. In most cases, the Business Count will not match total companies with profiles on the summary tab.*

Educational Pipeline

In 2022, there were 19,279 graduates in 11 Ohio Counties. This pipeline has remained stable (neither grown nor shrunk) over the last 5 years. The highest share of these graduates come from "Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse" (Bachelor's), "Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse" (Associate's), and "Business Administration and Management, General" (Bachelor's).



● Certificate
 ● Associate's
 ● Bachelor's
 ● Master's or Higher

In-Demand Skills

