



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*Collaborative solutions for a promising future*

WASHTENAW COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

# letter from the director



Dear friends,

What an incredible year it has been! Looking back on 2016, Washtenaw County and OCED experienced significant transition.

After a long period of interim leadership for OCED, I was honored to be selected as the new Director in November 2016 and am excited to be leading the work of OCED.

Despite leadership and staff transitions, we have achieved much in 2016 and are proud to share some of those accomplishments on the following pages. I am particularly proud of our incredible OCED staff that have taken on additional roles, worked extra hours, and managed to not only keep our successes on track, but also to increase our impact over the past twelve months.

In 2017, we hope to build on our work on the Washtenaw County Opportunity Index – a web-based tool that compares residents' access to opportunity by census tract – by engaging internal and external partners to ensure Index scores move in the right direction for all regions and populations within the county.

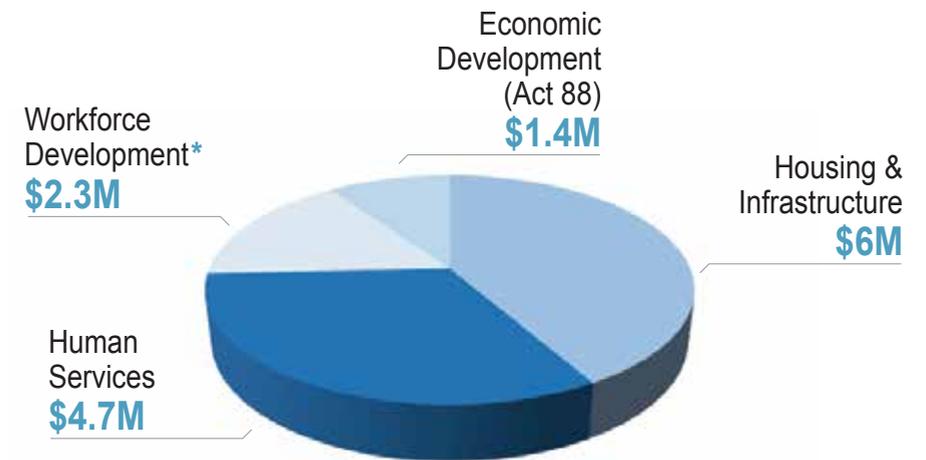
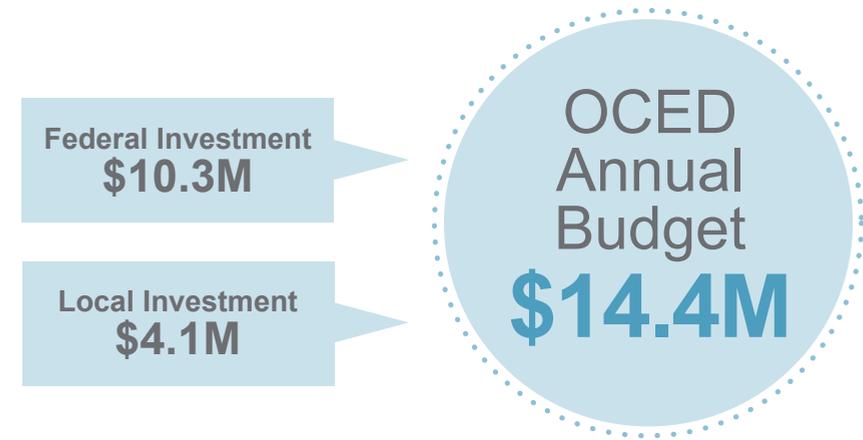
At OCED, we believe all county residents deserve a high quality of life; and know that achieving such an aspirational goal requires a shared commitment from a wide cross-section of community partners. To that end, we commit to increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in our leadership, investments, programs, and collaborations – in service of our whole community and all its members.

We hope you will join us in these efforts in the coming year.

Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook to learn more about the new and exciting efforts underway at OCED!

Best,  
Andrea

## our budget



\* Workforce Development program shifted to regional governance June 30, 2016

# meet basic needs

## ■ AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPORT

OCED makes investments in the development and sustainability of safe, affordable and energy-efficient housing and services to keep at-risk populations housed. **In 2016, OCED facilitated critical affordable housing development, home rehabilitation, and human services support for Urban County Members; and staffed the Affordable Housing and Equity Leadership Team.**

## ■ BARRIER BUSTERS

Barrier Busters is a network of 80+ social service providers with access to emergency assistance funds to help clients prevent evictions and utility shut-offs, and other emergency costs that threaten housing and financial stability. **In 2016, Barrier Busters provided \$303,000+ in utility assistance to Washtenaw County households.**

## ■ WASHTENAW COORDINATED FUNDERS

Funding support for Washtenaw County's social safety net with investments focused on housing, homelessness, early childhood, health and nutrition, aging, youth and hunger relief. **In 2016, OCED and other funding partners invested \$4+ Million to strengthen safety net programs & improve community outcomes.**

## ■ HOUSING REHABILITATION & WEATHERIZATION

OCED Housing & Rehabilitation programs provide weatherization assistance, home maintenance, emergency repairs, energy efficiency improvements, and barrier-free access for low-income Washtenaw County households. **In 2016, OCED assisted 252 Washtenaw County homes.**

## ■ SENIOR NUTRITION

OCED's Senior Nutrition Program, in partnership with Meals on Wheels (MOW), serves lunch and home-delivered meals to seniors 60+ in Washtenaw County. **In 2016, OCED partnered to serve 37,000+ meals at Senior Cafe meal sites; deliver 211,000+ meals to seniors; and provide 6,800+ emergency meals to program participants.**

## ■ FOSTER GRANDPARENTS PROGRAM

Older adult volunteers provide educational support and mentorship to at-risk youth in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. A stipend is provided for their service. **In 2016, Foster Grandparents provided academic support & mentoring to 200+ youth in Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti.**

## ■ LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Growing local economies and fostering prosperity through community partnerships, investments in key economic growth areas and services, and technical assistance to local units of government. **In 2016, OCED facilitated a \$950,000+ investment in Act 88 funding to support agricultural-, trade-, and tourism/immigration-focused projects.**

## ■ OPPORTUNITY INDEX

A tool used to "map" equity and opportunity using five key areas: health, education, job access, economic vitality, and neighborhood stability. **In 2016, OCED facilitated the County's participation in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity; and with internal partners, began building the framework for improving the County's equitable outcomes.** [www.opportunitywashtenaw.org](http://www.opportunitywashtenaw.org)

# foster prosperity

# create sense of place

## ■ BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT

Supports community redevelopment, job creation, environmental sustainability, and an expanded tax base through the reuse of contaminated and blighted sites. **In 2016, OCED approved three new brownfield plans; secured EPA funding for four potential projects; and awarded the City of Ypsilanti \$240,000 for soil remediation activities in the Water Street Brownfield Redevelopment Area.**

## ■ COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Funds infrastructure improvement projects in low-income neighborhoods with a focus on non-motorized connections (i.e. walking, cycling and wheelchair travel) and park improvements. **In 2016, OCED updated tot lot playgrounds and ADA ramps in the City of Ypsilanti; with 5-10 additional projects slated in 2017.**

## ■ HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Preservation of resources supporting economic development and a sense of pride in Washtenaw County's unique identity. **In 2016, OCED maintained 13 local historic districts.**

## ■ REIMAGINE WASHTENAW

Redevelopment of one of Washtenaw County's busiest corridors to support walkability, housing affordability, efficient transit and economic development opportunities. **In 2016, OCED partnered with the City of Ypsilanti and EMU to install a mid-block crossing with HAWK signal near EMU; and began a feasibility analysis of a new traffic signal & mid-block crossing near the County Service Center and Glencoe Hills apartments in Pittsfield Charter Township.**

# our staff



**Aaron** | Housing Weatherization



**Andrew** | Human Services



**Brian** | Human Services



**Caitlin** | Housing Weatherization



**Chris** | CoC Intern



**Darnishous** | Housing



**David** | Finance & Operations



**Deb** | Finance & Operations



**Evan** | Finance & Operations



**Heidi** | Housing Weatherization



**Jess** | Human Services



**Katie** | Barrier Busters Intern



**Kimson** | Human Services



**Laura** | Human Services



**Marti** | Human Services



**Mary Kate** | HMIS Intern



**Melissa** | Historic Preservation



**Mercedes** | Human Services



**Michaela** | Foster Grandparents Intern



**Moonson** | Human Services



**Nathan** | ReImagine Washtenaw



**Oke** | Communications



**Samantha** | Cmty. Development Intern



**Sandy** | Human Services



**Tami** | Finance & Operations



**Tara** | Community Infrastructure



**Teresa** | Housing & Cmty. Infrastructure



**Terry** | Housing & Cmty. Infrastructure



**Tiffany** | Historic Preservation Intern

**Not pictured:**  
Sue | Finance & Operations

# connect with OCED

**OCED Office:**

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