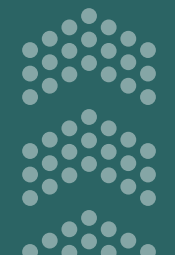




# FY2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT



*Empowering learners to plan for their  
future for more than thirty years*





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# A Message from our Executive Director



Dear Friends:

Fiscal Year 2023-24 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2024) was filled with good news.

First of all, we retained all LEAF staff and advisors and welcomed Heather Moll and Bill Novak to our team of professionals. Our advisors are an essential part of our service delivery. They received extensive training regarding the revamp of the 2024-25 FAFSA form; and despite the challenges of the roll out, our advisors demonstrated unwavering professionalism in guiding students and families through the financial aid cycle.

LEAF welcomed two new board members, Kim Walter and Ambreen Hasan. A new nomination process, which included a Call for Nominations to the public at large, allowed for a broader reach. We also gained two new schools, Bay Village and Crestview and introduced a 3-year contract option, signed by two-thirds of our schools.

Throughout the year, LEAF continues to respond to the ever-changing needs of students/parents and our community at large.

Thank you to the community for your ongoing support, and to our board for its passion and guidance. Your participation keeps us strong, responsive, and innovative.



Patrica G. Egan, MBA, CFRE  
LEAF Executive Director

# Mission & Services

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In partnership with 22 local high schools in the 2023-24 academic year, LEAF provided:

*Our mission is to empower learners to plan for their future through career, education, and financial aid advisory services.*



**1:1 Advisory Services** for students and families, providing guidance on all phases of postsecondary planning.



**Virtual Information Sessions** on a variety of postsecondary planning topics, such as scholarships, college admissions, and loan options.



**FAFSA Filing Assistance** to help families complete this application accurately and on-time to maximize aid eligibility.



**Scholarship Services** including the management of a host of local scholarships and a scholarship search repository on LEAF's website.



**In-school presentations** tailored to each high school's needs, including a Financial Aid Night.



**Grade-specific print and electronic publications** offering postsecondary planning resources, tips, and timelines.

*LEAF also provides FAFSA filing assistance to Lakeland Community College students and extends its advisory services and virtual programming to the community-at-large.*

# Our Impact, 2023-24

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**11 LEAF Advisors in 22 High Schools** across Cuyahoga, Lake, Geauga, & Portage counties with an audience of **over 35,000 students and family members**.



**More than 6,500 students/families** assisted through 1:1 meetings/interactions.



**More than 1,500 students/families** reached through our Resource Center's Virtual Information Sessions.



**More than 17,000 copies of LEAF's 4 print publications** distributed, along with **20 e-newsletters** with an **average audience of 8,322** per issue.



**More than \$53,000** awarded in LEAF-managed scholarships.



**Over 90 in-school presentations/events** including 18 Financial Aid Night presentations and 10 FAFSA Filing Nights.

# 2023-24 Highlights

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## NEW PLACES, NEW FACES



In FY 2023-24, LEAF began new partnerships with two Northeast Ohio high schools: Bay High School of Bay Village, and Crestwood High School of Mantua.

LEAF is honored to be a trusted partner within these communities.

LEAF welcomed two new Board Members:

Ambreen Hasan  
(Cleveland Institute of Art)

Kim Walter (Huntington Learning Center)

LEAF launched a University Partners program, establishing partnerships with Lakeland Community College, Ursuline College, and The University of Akron for the 24-25 school year.

LEAF expanded its advisory staff with the hiring of two new members: Heather Moll and Bill Novak. Both Heather and Bill bring extensive experience in education and higher learning to their new role with LEAF.



# 2023-24 Highlights

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## NAVIGATING THE PATH TO COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY



**OACAC** OHIO ASSOCIATION FOR  
COLLEGE ADMISSION COUNSELING

In September 2023, LEAF's advisory staff attended OACAC's Articulation conference at Cuyahoga Community College, where they learned about the latest developments concerning college enrollment and access.

In preparation of the 2024-25 FAFSA Simplification Act implementation, a major overhaul of Federal Student Aid and the FAFSA, LEAF's advisory team engaged in extensive training to best assist students and families in understanding the many changes in federal aid terminology, processes, and timelines and provide essential guidance for FAFSA 24-25 completion.

LEAF administered the award of \$53,125 in scholarships:

*ABB Engineering Scholarship*

*Erie Affiliates Construction Management Scholarship*

*Frank Jason Feola, Ph.D. Legacy First-Time & Renewal Scholarships*

*Harriet B. Storrs Fund First-Time & Renewal Scholarships*

*Lakeland Area Counselors Association Scholarship*

*Marous Brothers Construction Scholarship*

*Vincent L. Petro Scholarship*

*Western Reserve Junior Service League Adult Scholarship*

*Willis E. Kelly Music Scholarship*

*Willoughby South High School Alumni Scholarship*

# 2023-24 Highlights

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## HELPING LEARNERS EXPLORE TECHNICAL CAREERS

As more students express interest in pursuing an alternative to a four-year degree, LEAF recognized a need for resources to help guide learners on in-demand technical career opportunities and how they can get started on their career path of choice.

Thanks to funding from The Harriett B. Storrs Fund at the Cleveland Foundation, LEAF engaged in first-hand and online research to develop profiles on more than 20 technical careers spanning healthcare, public safety, manufacturing, skilled trade, and service industries.

Each technical career profile provides information on:

- Job Specifics
- Job Growth/Outlook
- Average Income
- Skills needed
- Education/Training Requirements
- Local Education/Training programs

It is LEAF's hope that this resource will help learners on their pathway to a rewarding technical career.





# What our Students Say about LEAF

“

[My LEAF Advisor's] efforts and aid were essential in helping me problem solve my way through the difficulties FAFSA presented.

Adalecia Pistininzi,  
Mentor HS,  
Class of 2024”

“

My LEAF Advisor helped me in so many different ways throughout my high school years and made my dream possible.

Kayla Calvey, Lake Catholic HS,  
Class of 2024”

“

My LEAF Advisor has helped me get through the entire year with applications, FAFSA forms, and scholarships. I wouldn't have as much financial help, or knowledge on the college process without her!

Mya Brennan, Lake Catholic HS,  
Class of 2024”

“

Utilizing LEAF is probably one of the best choices I have made regarding my future.

Grady Schulz,  
Madison HS,  
Class of 2024”

# The LEAF Team

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## 2023-24 Advisory Team

**Liz Brainard**

*Lake Catholic*

**Magen Corbett**

*Beachwood, iSTEM,  
Perry*

**Jane Csaszar**

*Mentor*

**Elia De La Garza**

*Lakeland Community  
College*

**Teresa Heavilin**

*Harvey, Madison*

**Christine Jankowski**

*Chardon, Kirtland,  
Lake Catholic, Mentor*

**Heather Moll**

*Berkshire, Crestwood,  
Kenston*

**Renee Morgan**

*Aurora, Chagrin Falls,  
Orange*

**Bill Novak**

*Bay*

**Cheryl Suszynski**

*Auburn CC, Fairport  
Harbor, Eastlake North,  
Riverside*

**Sarah Treen**

*Mayfield, Willoughby  
South*

## 2023-24 Office Staff

**Patricia G. Egan, MBA, CFRE**

*Executive Director*

**Liz Brainard**

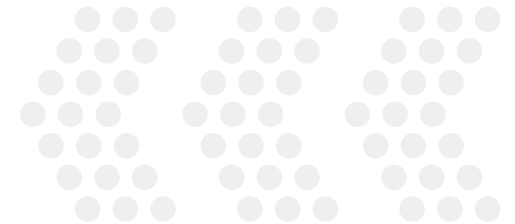
*Advisory Director*

**Michelle Fisher**

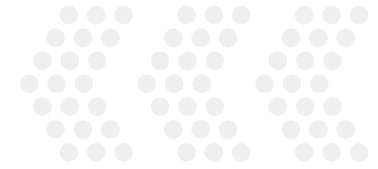
*Marketing & Publications  
Manager*

**Christina Muha**

*Executive Office Manager*



# Our Board of Directors



## 2023-24 OFFICERS

**Keith Hohman, President**

*Vice President & Margin  
Management,  
MCC Labels*

**Megan Krippel, Vice  
President**

*Director II, Enrollment  
Management & Student Service,  
Kent State University,  
Geauga/Twinsburg*

**Jacqueline Sherry, Secretary**

*Director, Operations & Clinical  
Services, University Hospitals  
Tripoint Medical Ctr*

**Hallie Pallante, Treasurer**

*Assurance Senior Manager  
RSM US, LLP*

## 2023-24 MEMBERS

**Amy Capitena-DuFour**

*Director, Global Total Rewards,  
Swagelok*

**Patricia G. Egan, MBA, CFRE\***

*Executive Director, LEAF*

**Ambreen Hasan**

*Director of Institutional Research  
& Effectiveness, Cleveland  
Institute of Art*

**Robert Malinowski**

*Client Account Director,  
Avenade*

**Dawn Plante\***

*Chief Communications Officer  
& VP for Community & College  
Relations, Lakeland Community  
College*

**Anthony Podojil,  
PhD**

*Executive Director  
Alliance for High  
Quality Education*

**Brandon Robinson**

*Senior IT Engineer,  
The Sherwin-Williams  
Company*

**Tamee Tucker**

*Chief Academic  
Officer, iSTEM*

**Kimberly Walter**

*Executive Director,  
Huntington Learning  
Center*

*\*non-voting member*

# Our Supporters

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LEAF is thankful to many local organizations for their generous support throughout the 2023-24 year, including:

**Our 2023-24 University Partners** pilot program participants: Lakeland Community College and Ursuline College.



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**Corporate supporters:** Swagelok Foundation and The Sherwin-Williams Foundation

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**Grant funders of LEAF programs and special initiatives:** The Harriet B. Storrs Fund at The Cleveland Foundation, Western Reserve Junior Service League, and the U.S. Department of Education.

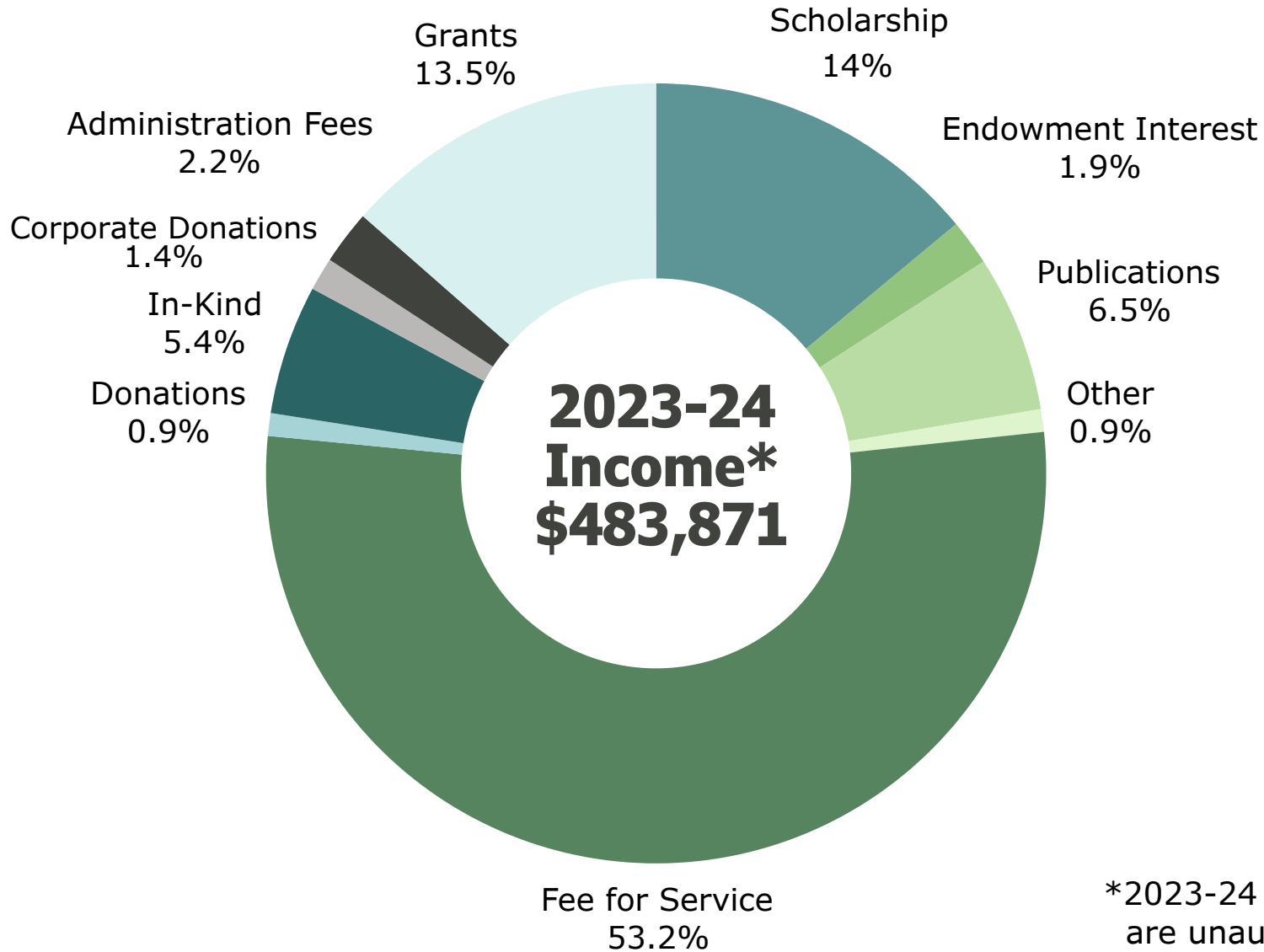
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**Our 23-24 Advertisers and Sponsors:** Alliance for Working Together (AWT), Auburn Career Center, Cardinal Credit Union, Cuyahoga Community College, Huntington Learning Center, Kent State University, Lake Erie College, Learning About Business, University Hospitals, University of Akron School of Business, and University of Mount Union.



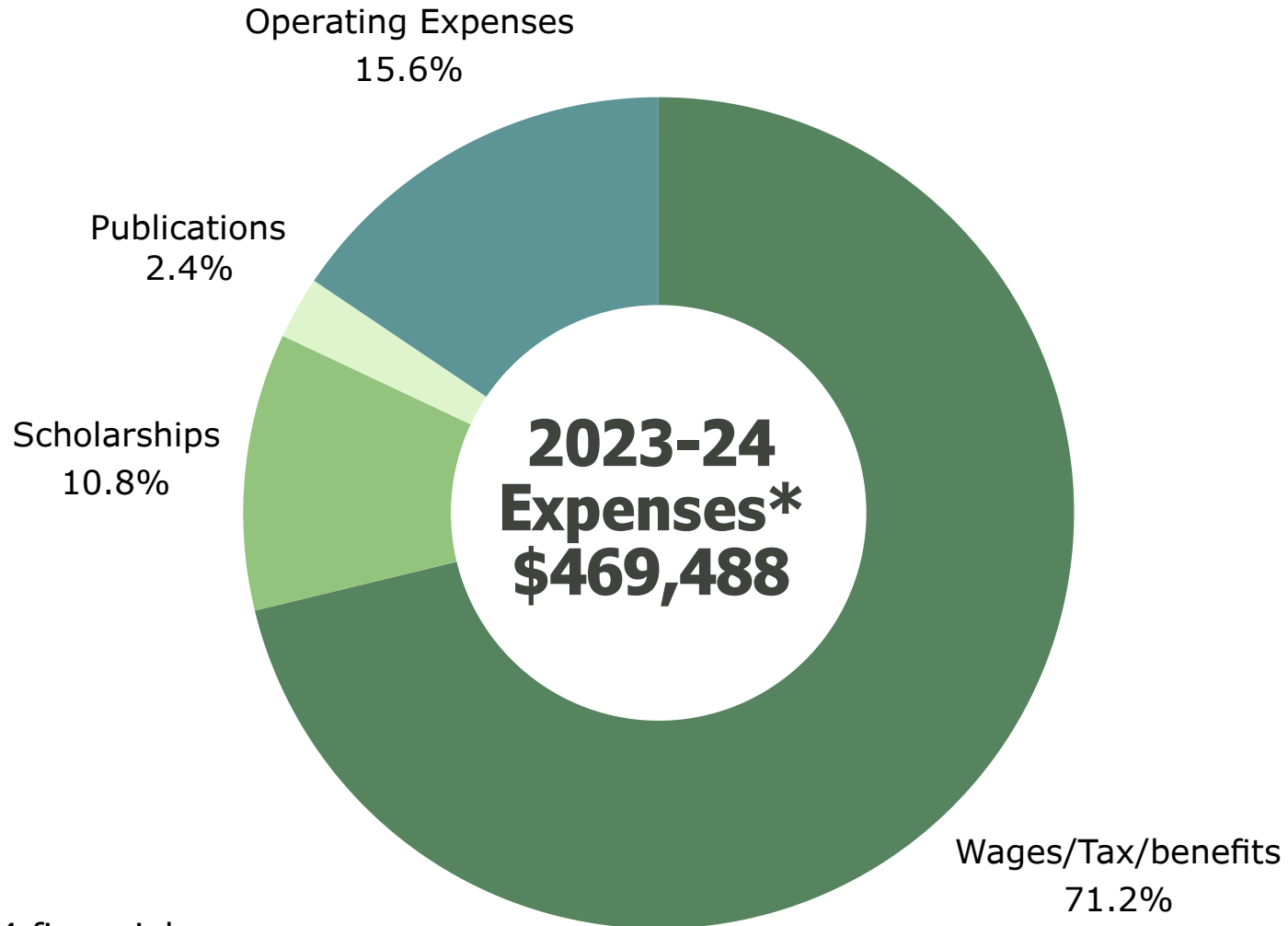
# 2023-24 Income

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# 2023-24 Expenses

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\*2023-24 financials are unaudited

# Connect with Us

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**LOCATION:**

7700 Clocktower Drive  
C-2048  
Kirtland, OH 44094



**OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday-Friday,  
8:00 am - 3:00 pm



**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

admin@leaf-ohio.org



**PHONE NUMBER:**

440-525-7095

**FOLLOW LEAF ON SOCIAL MEDIA:**



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