



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

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



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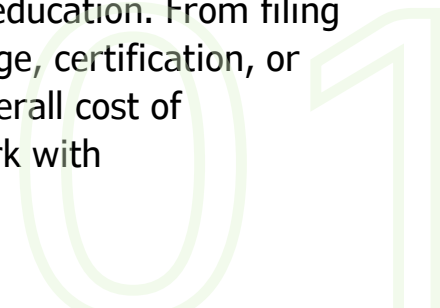
FROM LEAF'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our footprint in Northeast Ohio continues to grow, adding a new contract school during 24-25. During that same period, we added three new schools to join LEAF in the 25-26 school year. Our reputation is solid, and our excellence in service has been a tradition for 35 years.



Our advisors are stable, with no attrition from 24-25, the third year our staff has served the students/families in their respective schools. They are highly trained to assist students in planning their postsecondary pathway, providing thoughtful guidance in how to reach their goals, while being aware of the financial implications. Their tenures have built relationships with school guidance counselors, thereby collaborating to foster successful students as they embark on their postsecondary journeys.

Our positive relationships stem from creating individual plans for each school we serve...plans that are derived from their student population...not from cookie-cutter approaches. Looming for most students is the cost of education. From filing the FAFSA and/or CSS Profile, to exploring the "best-fit" college, certification, or training courses, and to understanding and managing the overall cost of postsecondary education plans, our advisors are there to work with students/families to understand and minimize the costs.



ED MESSAGE *(continued)*

We all want our next generation of workforce participants and leaders to be creative, innovative, and skilled. That's why we work hard every day in our schools, Resource Center, and education sessions to provide the best, timely, and helpful support that students and parents can use to make sound decisions.

We are 35 years old. And thriving. We hope you will join us in celebrating the successes of the students we serve, the staff that provides the services, and the Board of Directors that engages in sound governance, insight, and hours of dedicated volunteer time.

Together, we are building futures for students that will develop a workforce that meets job demands, offers financial sustainability, and delivers personal satisfaction.



Patricia G. Egan, MBA, CFRE
LEAF Executive Director



OUR MISSION

LEAF is committed to the mission of empowering learners to plan for their future through career, education, and financial aid advisory services.



Career Exploration

We connect students to resources and opportunities to determine the career path that's right for them.



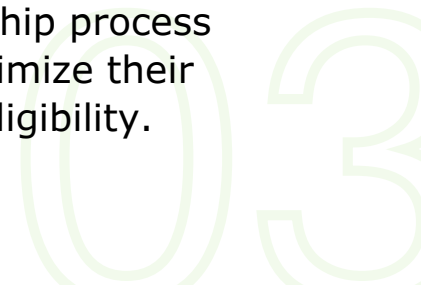
Postsecondary Education & Training

We assist students in mapping out their postsecondary education and training so they can make their career goals a reality.



Financial Aid & Scholarships

We guide students and families through the financial aid and scholarship process to maximize their aid eligibility.



OUR SERVICES

For the 2024-25 academic year, LEAF served 22 partner high schools through:



1:1 ADVISORY SERVICES

On all phases of postsecondary planning

FAFSA FILING ASSISTANCE

helping students & families gain access to federal, state, & college aid.



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

on a variety of postsecondary planning topics

FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS

and other in-school events tailored to each partner school's needs.



SCHOLARSHIP SERVICES

connecting students to hundreds of local opportunities.

CAREER/COLLEGE RESOURCES

including four print publications, monthly E-Newsletters, and a Technical Career Toolkit.

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



22

High Schools
Served

by an experienced
staff of nine
Career and
College Advisors.



35,000+

Students & Families
Reached

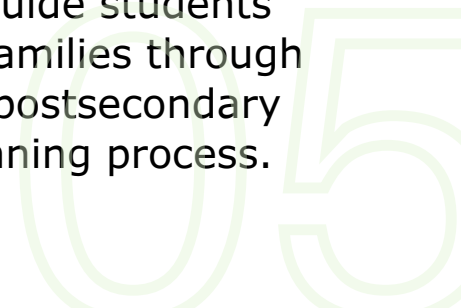
through virtual
programming, in-school
events, print and
e-publications, and online
information sharing,
covering all phases of
postsecondary planning.



6,500+

1:1 Connections
Made

through individual
advisory sessions
and communications
to guide students
and families through
the postsecondary
planning process.



2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

Fostering collaboration and a commitment to excellence

BOARD DEVELOPMENTS

2024-25 officer appointments:
President: Megan Krippel,
Director of Regional Recruitment,
Kent State University

Vice President: Brandon Robinson,
Senior IT Engineer,
The Sherwin-Williams Company

Secretary: Trisha Gumto,
Vice President, Total Rewards, Steris

Treasurer: Hallie Pallante,
Assurance Senior Manager,
RSM US, LLP.

Dr. John R. Crooks, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Lakeland Community College, and Dr. Joe Glavan, Superintendent, Auburn Career Center, were appointed to LEAF's Board in the 2024-25 fiscal year.



UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

LEAF expanded its program with enhanced benefits for its three 2024-25 University Partners: Lakeland Community College, University of Akron, and Ursuline College.

ADVISOR TRAINING

LEAF continued its commitment to be at the forefront of college admission and access. Our advisors attended OACAC's Articulation in September 2024 at Kent State University, and toured several college campuses throughout the school year, including Duquesne, Carnegie Mellon, and Baldwin Wallace.



MORE 2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS



Bringing together thought leaders dedicated to student success



CONVERSATIONS24

LEAF hosted Conversations on November 25, 2024, at Tall Oaks Resort in Kirtland, Ohio, bringing together educators, businesses, and government officials to discuss how to better support learners in preparing for tomorrow's workforce.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Sunil Ahuja, President of Lakeland Community College, and featured four panelists: Jerry Cirino – District 18, Ohio State Senator & Committee Chair for Workforce & Higher Education; Stephen D. Dackin – Director, Ohio Department of Education & Workforce; Cheryl Rice, Ph.D. – Vice Chancellor, Higher Education Workforce Alignment, Ohio Department of Higher Education; and Julie Szeltner – Director of Talent Engagement, Team NEO.



MORE 2024-25 HIGHLIGHTS

Better serving our students through new and enhanced offerings and resources

WEBSITE REDESIGN

LEAF launched an all-new website in fall of 2024, which included a rebranded design, easier navigation, and online access to career and college planning tools, including LEAF's Technical Career Toolkit.



SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

LEAF developed a Summer Opportunities for High Schoolers resource, connecting students to internships, volunteer work, and programs to experience careers firsthand while making connections and expanding their resume.



SCHOLARSHIP ACCESS

LEAF managed scholarships that awarded more than \$50,000 in 2024-25 and more than doubled the number of local and all-Ohio scholarships accessible through its scholarship search database.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Thoughts about LEAF shared by our Class of 2025 students

"My LEAF Advisor has been amazing in supporting me through my college journey, and I am very thankful my school offers this program."

Ivana Cmeljesevic
*Lake Catholic High School,
Class of 2025*

"If my high school didn't have a LEAF Advisor, I would have been so lost with college costs and the college journey, both before and after applying to schools."

Emma Kerr
*Mayfield High School,
Class of 2025*

"I'm glad that I talked to my advisor every step of the way, and I am thankful for how realistic she was when talking about college costs and ways to lessen them."

Lily Waters,
*Mentor High School,
Class of 2025*

“

I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with [my LEAF Advisor]. I was in her office multiple times a week with questions about colleges, career paths, and scholarships. She was very helpful and gave me great advice. My college application and decision process went very smoothly, and I credit that to her.

”

Brian Zalar, *Lake Catholic High School, Class of 2025*

THE LEAF TEAM

Committed to helping students navigate their postsecondary pathway

2024-25 ADVISORY TEAM

Liz Brainard

Lake Catholic

Magen Corbett

Beachwood, Perry

Elia De La Garza

*Lakeland Community
College*

Teresa Heavilin

Harvey, Madison

**Christine
Jankowski**

*Chardon, Kirtland,
Lake Catholic,
Mentor*

Heather Moll

*Berkshire, Crestwood,
iSTEM, Kenston*

Renee Morgan

*Aurora, Chagrin Falls,
Orange*

Bill Novak

Bay

Cheryl Suszynski

*Auburn Career Center,
Fairport Harbor, Eastlake
North, Riverside*

Sarah Treen

*Mayfield, Willoughby
South*

2024-25 OFFICE STAFF

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

Executive Director

Liz Brainard

Advisory Director

Michelle Fisher

*Marketing &
Publications Manager*

Christina Muha

*Executive Office
Manager*

LEAF'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Supporting LEAF's mission of empowering learners to plan for their future

2024-25 OFFICERS

President

Megan Krippel

*Director of Regional
Recruitment,
Kent State University*

Vice President

Brandon Robinson

*Senior IT Engineer,
The Sherwin-Williams Company*

Secretary

Trisha Gumto

*Vice President, Total Rewards
Steris*

Treasurer

Hallie Pallante

*Assurance Senior Manager,
RSM US, LLP*

2024-25 BOARD MEMBERS

Amy Capitena-DuFour

*Director, Global Total
Rewards, Swagelok*

John Crooks, Ph.D*

*Interim Provost and Vice
President for Academic
and Student Affairs,
Lakeland Community
College*

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

Executive Director, LEAF

Joseph Glavan, Ph.D

*Superintendent,
Auburn Career Center*

Ambreen Hasan

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

Anthony Podojil, Ph.D

*Executive Director
Alliance for High Quality
Education*

Amy Seifert

*School Counselor,
Cardinal Local School
District*

Kimberly Walter

*Executive Director
Huntington Learning Center*

*non-voting member

2024-25 UNIVERSITY PARTNERS

LEAF is grateful for the support of our 2024-25 University Partners whose contributions helped us to continue our important work.

Lakeland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The
University
of Akron

Ursuline 
College

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2024-25 SUPPORTERS

Thank you to our 2024-25 Corporate Supporters, Grant Funders, Advertisers, and Sponsors for helping LEAF provide postsecondary planning services at our partner schools, at Lakeland Community College, and within the community at large.

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Swagelok Foundation
The Sherwin-Williams Foundation

GRANT FUNDERS

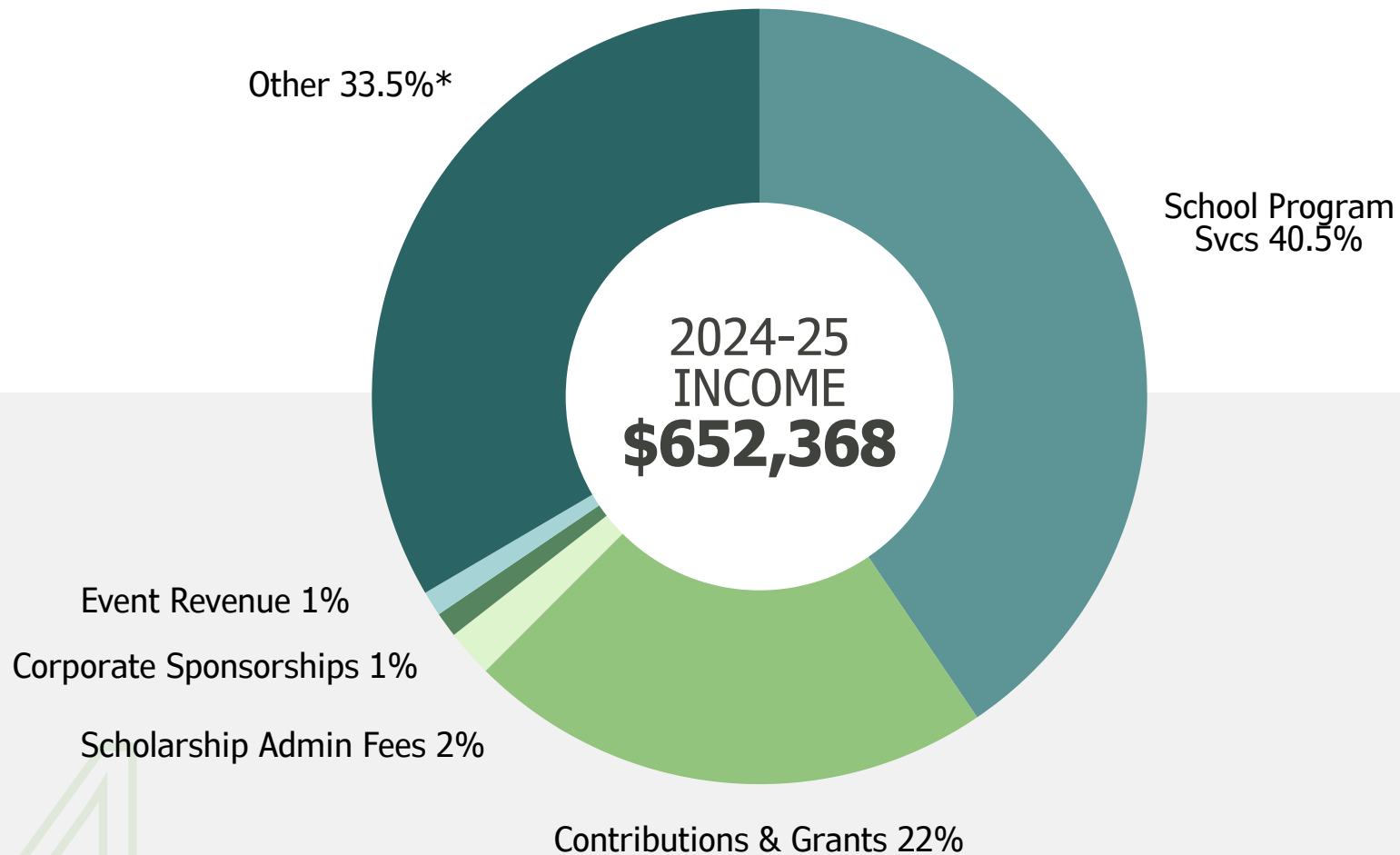
The Harriet B. Storrs Fund at The Cleveland Foundation
Western Reserve Junior Service League

ADVERTISERS & SPONSORS

Auburn Career Center
Cardinal Credit Union
Cuyahoga Community College
Huntington Learning Center
Kent State University
Lake Erie College

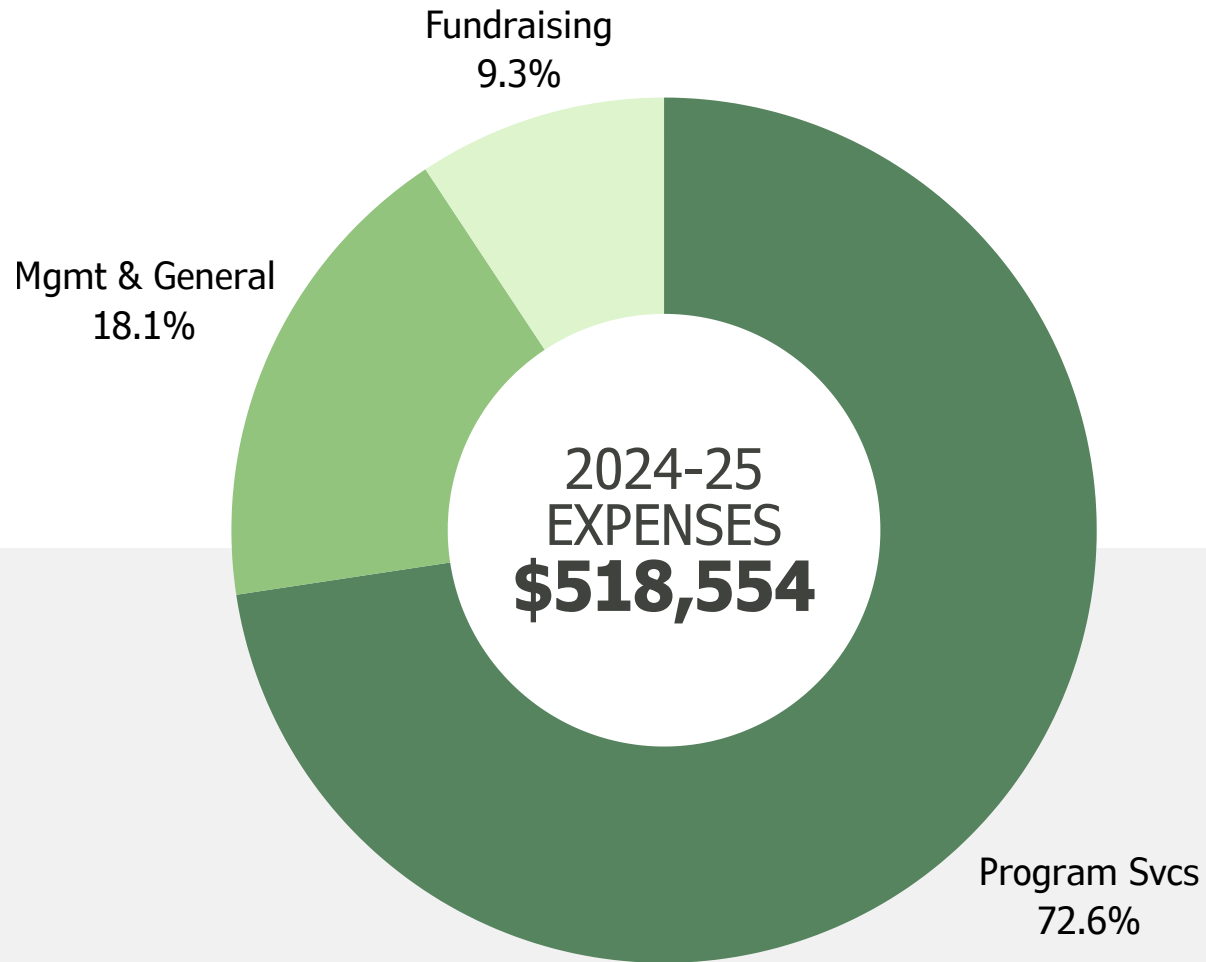


2024-25 INCOME



* Includes a one-time Employee Retention Tax Credit of \$133.6K

2024-25 EXPENSES



CONNECT WITH LEAF

Contact us to learn more about our commitment to this next generation of learners

LOCATION:

7700 Clocktower Drive, C-2048
Kirtland, OH 44094



OFFICE HOURS:

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



PHONE NUMBER:

440-525-7095



EMAIL ADDRESS:

admin@leaf-ohio.org



www.leaf-ohio.org



FACEBOOK:

facebook.com/
leafohio



INSTAGRAM:

instagram.com/
leafohio/



X:

x.com/
LEAF_ohio



LINKEDIN:

linkedin.com/
company/leaf-ohio/