

## Governor DeWine Announces \$5 Million Grant Program for New H2Ohio Best Management Practice

(TOLEDO, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) today announced a \$5 million grant program for a new H2Ohio Best Management Practice (BMP) – the Two-Stage Ditch. A two-stage ditch is a conservation practice that modifies the shape of a drainage ditch to create vegetation benches on each side. The vegetative benches slow water flow and reduce downstream nutrient runoff.

“Clean water for all Ohioans is a top priority,” said Governor DeWine. “I am pleased that H2Ohio continues to implement new solutions to improve water quality.”

The two-stage ditch becomes the eighth BMP that ODA has offered in the H2Ohio program. H2Ohio incentivizes producers to implement proven conservation practices to reduce nutrient runoff and improve water quality.

“We are very excited to expand the H2Ohio program with an additional best management practice,” said ODA Director Dorothy Pelanda. “We always strive to evolve with H2Ohio, looking at science to offer the best practices to reduce nutrient runoff.”

The Two-Stage Ditch Grant Program is available in the 24 counties in the Western Lake

Erie Basin. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), and county engineers are eligible to apply for up to full reimbursement of the two-stage ditch construction.

“Two stage ditches are an important technology that reestablishes the natural floodplain area, which lowers flood risk and increases water quality,” said Lucas County Engineer Mike Pniewski. “H2Ohio’s investment will improve the quality of life for those in the Maumee River Watershed.”

Applications for the grant program will be mailed directly to SWCDs and county engineer offices and must be completed and submitted by November 30, 2022.

H2Ohio is Governor DeWine’s initiative to ensure safe and clean water in Ohio. It is a comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving water quality over the long term. It is a collaboration between ODA, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. H2Ohio focuses on encouraging agricultural best management practices, restoring wetlands, and replacing home septic systems to reduce nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms. For more information on the H2Ohio initiative, visit [h2.ohio.gov](http://h2.ohio.gov).

## Governor DeWine Announces Final Approval Of Extended Health Coverage for New Moms

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Ohio Medicaid’s extended coverage for new moms from 60 days to 12 months after the birth of their child. With this extension, CMS estimates approximately 21,000 Ohio women annually will be eligible for this extended health coverage.

“Maternal health is a strong predictor of a child’s health, so by extending health coverage for new moms, we are helping to provide the healthiest possible start in life for Ohio’s children,” said Governor DeWine. “Ohio began this extended coverage on April 1, 2022, and CMS’s

final approval is the last step to ensuring we can continue providing these services.”

“We know that access to postpartum care not only saves lives but leads to better health outcomes for moms and their babies,” said Maureen Corcoran, director of Ohio Medicaid. “Extending eligibility for a full year postpartum ensures women have access to critical services that impact maternal morbidity and mortality as well as the health of their baby.”

For moms who need it, available coverage includes treatment for postpartum depression; medical care for chronic conditions, such as hypertension or diabetes; breastfeeding resources; and evidence-based nurse home visiting.

## Governor DeWine Awards \$5 Million for Local Jail Projects

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that he is providing state assistance to six county jails in Ohio for targeted safety, security, and operational projects.

Approximately \$5 million has been awarded to the following jails through the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s (ODRC) Bureau of Adult Detention:

Darke County - \$1.8 million for security upgrades

Ross County - \$1.6 million for security upgrades

Monroe County - \$329,000 for a sewer system project

Erie County - \$150,000 for a sewer system project

Highland County - \$179,000 for security upgrades

Pickaway County - \$902,000 for a sewer system project

“Ohio is making significant investments in the safety and overall operations of our jails to help them better meet the demands of our criminal justice system,” said Governor DeWine. “These jail improvements will help alleviate more significant

issues in the future and help ensure these facilities are operating safely.”

Today’s grant awards are part of \$50 million allocated by the legislature at Governor DeWine’s request for local jail renovations in Senate Bill 310 of 133rd Ohio General Assembly. Governor DeWine awarded \$45 million to six jails last year for major construction projects, and the remaining \$5 million in funding was reserved for smaller-scale, immediate safety concerns.

Governor DeWine has also partnered with the Ohio General Assembly on additional grant funding for Ohio jails that will be awarded through the current capital budget. House Bill 687, which was passed by the 134th General Assembly and signed by Governor DeWine this summer, provides another \$51 million in grant funding for jail capital projects. The application period for this new round of grant money will open in coming weeks.

## Governor DeWine Increases Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program to \$100 Million

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) -- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that he is increasing the amount of violent crime reduction grant funding available to local law enforcement agencies by \$42 million.

The funds added today increase the total amount of money available to law enforcement through the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program from \$58 million to \$100 million.

“Violent crime is spiking nationwide, and here in Ohio, I want to ensure that our local law enforcement agencies have as much support as possible,” said Governor DeWine. “From new equipment to more staff, we’re giving our agencies the flexibility to use these grants in ways that make the biggest impact on the safety of their communities.”

Governor DeWine made today’s funding announcement while visiting the Whitehall Police Department, which is receiving more than \$630,000 in violence reduction funds to help them replace aging technology in their dispatch center and maintain reliable emergency services for citizens.

To date, \$28.7 million in grants have been awarded to 99 law enforcement agencies statewide. The next round of grant awards are expected to be announced later this week.

Governor DeWine partnered with the Ohio General Assembly to launch the Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program last year with \$8 million from the state’s operating budget and later expanded the program to include \$50 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Because the total amount of grant requests far exceeded \$58 million, today’s \$42 million in additional funding will go toward qualifying requests that have already been submitted. The \$42 million is part of the ARPA funding set aside by the Governor and Ohio General Assembly specifically for use by law enforcement and other first responders.

Uses for this funding include but are not limited to the creation, implementation, and/or expansion of proven or promising violent crime reduction initiatives such as place-network investigations, focused deterrence, hot-spot policing, and crime gun intelligence centers. Grants can also be used for recruitment efforts, retention bonuses, hiring bonuses, payroll costs, technology, equipment, training, technical assistance, analytical tools/support, and overtime costs associated with implementing crime reduction strategies.

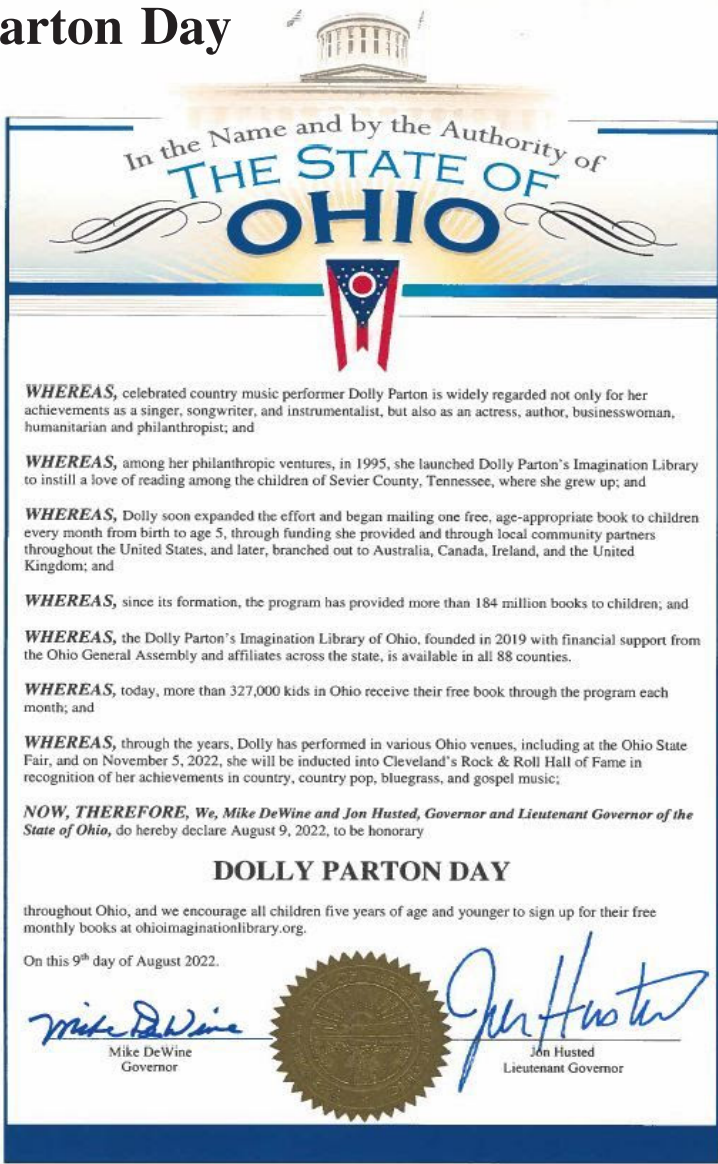
The grant program is administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services.

## Governor DeWine Declares Aug. 9 as Dolly Parton Day

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that he has declared Tuesday, August 9, 2022, as honorary Dolly Parton Day in Ohio. Parton will be visiting Columbus tomorrow to celebrate early literacy and the success of Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio.

Championed by First Lady Fran DeWine and supported by the Ohio General Assembly and affiliates across the state, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio currently mails more than 327,000 Ohio children a free, age-appropriate book every month. The program is open to children up to the age of five in all of Ohio’s 88 counties.

To learn more about Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library of Ohio visit [ohioimaginationlibrary.org](http://ohioimaginationlibrary.org).



(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear announced today that the two states jointly submitted a second federal funding application to support bridge and roadway improvements along the eight-mile Brent Spence Bridge Corridor from the Western Hills Viaduct in Ohio to Dixie Highway in Kentucky.

The new funding request was made to the Bridge Investment Program and is in addition to the still-pending May 2022 funding request made to the Multimodal Projects Discretionary Grant Program. Ohio and Kentucky articulated in both applications that a total of \$1.66 billion in federal grant funding is needed regardless of which discretionary grant program awards funds to the project. The states are applying to multiple Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant programs to give themselves the best chance of receiving maximum funding, a strategy that is in line with the pledges of Governors DeWine and Beshear to pursue every federal dollar available for this bridge project.

“Now, more than ever, our national economy depends on the efficient movement of people, goods, and services on our federal Interstate Sys-

tem,” said Governor DeWine. “The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project is long overdue, and our residents deserve to have these highway infrastructure upgrades become a reality. Ohio and Kentucky continue to work closely with our federal partners to secure the funding we need to invest in our future through the transformation of this critical corridor.”

“The time for us to act is now,” said Governor Beshear. “Kentucky and Ohio are working with our partners to ensure we have the funding we need to complete improvements along the Brent Spence Bridge corridor. There is a tremendous sense of urgency surrounding this project because we recognize how important it is for the people we serve. I want us to be able to break ground next year.”

The Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project calls for the construction of a companion bridge to the west of the existing Brent Spence Bridge, as well as improvements to the current bridge and the roadway network that ties into each river crossing. Ohio and Kentucky will share the cost of the new

bridge equally, and each state will be responsible for the needed work on its side of the Ohio River.

As the project moves closer to full funding, the pace of activity has picked up to ensure construction readiness. The bi-state project team is prioritizing the following activities while the federal funding requests are under review:

- Updating the financial plan to align with existing funding opportunities and anticipated project needs, including evaluation of the potential impacts of inflation on the funding plans for each state;
- Continuing development of the revised concept for the new companion bridge, which significantly improves safety by separating through and local traffic;
- Analyzing potential options for construction using the design/build process; and
- Performing environmental field work, including updating air and noise evaluations.

## Governors DeWine, Beshear Submit Second Federal Funding Request for Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project

-About the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project

Fueled by bipartisan cooperation and community engagement, the Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project

will invest in local communities and help grow America’s economy. Spanning eight miles between the Western Hills Viaduct in Ohio and Dixie Highway in Kentucky, the project will address the second-worst truck bottleneck in the nation by improving safety and travel on the interstate connection that carries more than \$700 billion worth of freight every year.

In addition, the project will improve access to the central business districts of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Covington, Kentucky, and will also support local businesses and underserved communities in historic neighborhoods on both sides of the river. Ohio and Kentucky are working together to deliver this transformative project that will improve the quality of life for the millions of Americans who use the federal highway system to travel between the two states and beyond.

