

## Ohio's Startup Culture Awards Return to Recognize Great Work Environments



COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Development is excited to announce the start of TechOhio's fourth annual Startup Culture Awards, which begin today. In addition to the creative problem-solving startups are known for, the Awards celebrate Ohio companies' commitment

to building great work environments, from benefits and perks to entertainment and group outings.

Nominations for the competition are open now through Oct. 1.

"Ohio's innovative startups continue to be creative and forward-thinking, while prioritizing their amazing workplaces and talented employees," said Lydia Mihalik, director of Development and chair of the Ohio Third Frontier Commission. "The Startup Culture Awards are a great opportunity to give companies credit for not only their fantastic work, but the way they approach building a culture of inclusivity, respect, and fun."

For the second year in a row, the Startup Culture Awards will be organized as a regional

competition. After the nomination round, voters will choose finalists from across Ohio — the northeast, northwest, central, west central, southeast, and southwest. Each of the six regions will be represented in the finals, where one company will be named the winner.

Regional finalists will be featured in a compilation article and video. The winner will be featured in a full article and video showcasing the company's great company culture, innovative work, and engaging staff. The winner will be announced the week of November 15.

The entirety of the competition will be determined by voters, from nominations to regional finalists and ultimately the winner. Votes can be cast at [weare.techohio.ohio.gov](http://weare.techohio.ohio.gov), with regular updates on TechOhio's Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram.

Check out TechOhio to see why Ohio Third Frontier is at the foundation of Ohio's technology economy, making Ohio the most innovative, creative, and entrepreneurial state in the Midwest. Hear stories of Ohio entrepreneurs, breakthrough technologies, and cutting-edge research. See how partnerships with proven brands and industries, a community of support, and the lifestyle you want make Ohio the place to build companies. Follow TechOhio on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram (@TechOhioGov).

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## National Small Business Day: Ohio Continues to Offer Support for Small Businesses

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—On National Small Business Day, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine spoke to members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Ohio today celebrating the accomplishments of Ohio's small businesses and reminding business owners of the many programs and initiatives offered by the state to support them.

"Ohio's economy is tied to the success of our small businesses, so it's in our best interests to go forward together. What is good



for Ohio's 982,000 small businesses is good for Ohio," said Governor DeWine.

Ohio's most recent operating budget includes \$2 billion in business and personal income tax cuts and supports Governor DeWine's In-

vesting in Ohio's Future Initiative to help small businesses and accelerate economic growth. The operating budget doubled the amount of grant funding available to help small businesses recover from the COVID-19 pandemic to \$310 million. Funding is still available from the following four grant programs:

Food and Beverage Establishment Grant: This program provides grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to restaurants, bars, coffee shops, and other food and beverage businesses.

Entertainment Venue Grant: This program provides grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to

theaters, music venues, spectator sports venues, museums, and other entertainment venues.

Lodging Grant: This program provides grants of \$10,000, \$20,000, or \$30,000 to hotels, motels, and bed and breakfast operations.

New Small Business Grant: This program provides grants of \$10,000 to small businesses that were established between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2020.

For more information and to apply, visit [investinohiosfuture.ohio.gov](http://investinohiosfuture.ohio.gov).



## Justice Department Announces Investigation into Conditions in Georgia Prisons

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department announced today that it has opened a statewide civil investigation into conditions of confinement of prisoners held in Georgia's prisons.

The investigation will examine whether Georgia provides prisoners reasonable protection from physical harm at the hands of other prisoners. The department also will continue its existing investigation into whether Georgia provides lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex prisoners reasonable protection from sexual abuse by other prisoners and by staff.

"Ensuring the inherent human dignity and worth of everyone, including people who are incarcerated inside our nation's jails and prisons, is a top priority," said Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department's investigations into prison conditions have been successful at identifying systemic constitutional violations and their causes, fixing those causes and stopping the violations. We are investigating prison violence and abuse in Georgia's prisons to

determine whether Constitutional violations exist, and if so, how to stop them."

"Individuals sentenced to prison in Georgia Department of Corrections facilities deserve to be treated humanely," said Acting U.S. Attorney Kurt R. Erskine for the Northern District of Georgia. "Our office is committed to ensuring state prisoners are safe while serving their sentences. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Georgia Department of Corrections to ensure the safety of all individuals in its prisons."

"Prison conditions that enable inmates to engage in dangerous and even deadly activity is an injustice, jeopardizing the lives of detainees, staff members and other corrections personnel," said Acting U.S. Attorney Peter D. Leary for the Middle District of Georgia. "Our local law enforcement and corrections partners, with whom we work with closely each and every day, are indispensable to our united goal of achieving a safer Georgia for all. Under

the leadership of the department's Civil Rights Division, we look forward to collaborating with our state partners to address our mutual concern for safety in the corrections system."

"This investigation is an example of our office's commitment to stamping out violence in our district, no matter where it is found, no matter who the victim is," said Acting U.S. Attorney David H. Estes for the Southern District of Georgia. "We look forward to working with the State of Georgia, the Georgia Department of Corrections, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and our counterparts in the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia to further our shared mission to keep correctional facilities safe for the sake of our community, the prisoners housed there and the dedicated staff who work there."

The department has not reached any conclusions regarding the allegations in this matter. The

investigation will be conducted under the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). Under CRIPA, the department has the authority to investigate whether any violations of prisoners' constitutional rights result from a "pattern or practice of resistance to the full enjoyment of such rights." The department has conducted CRIPA investigations of many correctional systems, and where violations have been found, the resulting settlement agreements have led to important reforms.

The Special Litigation Section of the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division is conducting this investigation jointly with the U.S. Attorney's Offices for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts of Georgia. Individuals with relevant information are encouraged to contact the department via phone at (844) 401-3736 or by email at [Community.GeorgiaDOC@usdoj.gov](mailto:Community.GeorgiaDOC@usdoj.gov).

Additional information about the Civil Rights Division's CRIPA investigations related to prisons and jails can be found here: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/rights-persons-confined-jails-and-prisons>.



### M&M 律師和會計師事務所

168 Dorchester Square, Suite 207, Westerville OH 43081

電話: (614)358-3590 傳真: (614)358-8572 微信: MTang\_OH 郵箱: tangming@tanglawoffice.com



唐鳴, 移民及稅法律師

Ming Tang, Attorney

親屬移民, 工作移民, 投資移民, 入籍, H1/L1, 政治庇護, 出庭, 豁免, 上訴, 高中及大學留學

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公司地址: 92 Northwoods Blvd, STE A, Columbus, OH 43235

中英文電話: 614-962-0868 郵箱: fred@nationaltax.net 微信號: Nationaltax

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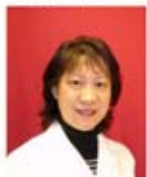
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