

Governor DeWine, ODNR Break Groundon Great Council State Park



Governor DeWine, First Lady DeWine, ODNR Director Mertz, and others break ground on the newest Ohio State Park.

(XENIA, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director Mary Mertz today broke ground on Ohio’s 76th state park.

Great Council State Park, just north of Xenia, will be a connection to Ohio’s Native American and pioneer past. The area was once home to Oldtown, one of the largest-known Shawnee settlements in Ohio. More than 1,000 people called Oldtown home from approximately 1777 to 1780. Their stories directly intersect with that of historic settlers like Daniel Boone, who was held captive in Oldtown for a period of time.

“This is an exciting step toward preserving an important piece of Ohio’s history,” said Governor DeWine. “This project gives us the unique opportunity to connect future generations with the past, while protecting the legacy of the Shawnee and inviting them to share their story.”

Great Council State Park will feature a 12,000-square-foot interpretive center with an architectural design based on the traditional council house form that was historically used by the Shawnee tribes. Inside, visitors will find three floors of exhibits, a theater area, a living stream, and a gallery. All these displays will honor the Shawnee tribes of the past and allow present-day members to share their stories and legacy.

Rendering of Great Council State Park Interpretive Center

“This new center will be an educational tool that can take visitors into the past and inspire an appreciation for another time,” Director Mertz said. “We hope to see families, school groups, scouts, and all people use this space to learn more about the tribes who used to call this part of Ohio home.”

ODNR is working with the three federally-recognized Shawnee Tribes to develop the property. The facility is expected to open in 2023.



Governor DeWine Announces Over \$42.1 Million in Demolition Funding for Ohio Communities

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today awarded over \$42.1 million in grant funding to help communities in nearly every Ohio county turn blighted properties into new opportunities that attract investment, business, and jobs.

Eighty-seven counties will receive up to \$500,000 in grants as part of the first phase of the Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, which funds the demolition of dilapidated commercial and residential buildings and the revitalization of surrounding properties.

“There are vacant, decaying buildings all over the state that are nothing but eyesores, and it’s time for these structures to go,” said Governor DeWine. “By investing to tear down these dangerous properties, we’re not only helping to transform the landscape of our communities, but we’re also clearing the way for redevelopment, more jobs, and new opportunities for Ohio residents.”

In total, approximately \$150 million in grants will be awarded for demolition and revitalization projects across the state in coming months. As part of the program’s initial round of funding, \$500,000 was set aside for all of Ohio’s 88 counties through June 30, 2022. The awards announced today represent the total amount requested by each county up to its \$500,000 set-aside. The program’s remaining funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to counties that applied for funding in excess of \$500,000.

DETAILS: List of Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Grants (Initial Round)

“These investments lead to revitalization at its finest,” said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. “It takes blighted properties that are a scar on the landscape of a community and turns them into parks, housing or thriving businesses.”

The Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program was created with the support of the Ohio General Assembly, which funded the program as part of the state biennium budget bill, House Bill 110. The program, which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development, is also part of the DeWine-Husted Administration’s strategic efforts to invest in Ohio’s future.

“With access to this funding communities can start on their projects and begin making room for future growth,” said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Ohio Department of Development. “Clearing blight and dilapidated structures helps pave the way for future economic development.”

The Ohio Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program is part of Governor DeWine’s Ohio BUILDS Initiative, which focuses on supporting targeted solutions that impact quality of life, such as water infrastructure improvements, broadband expansion, brown-field redevelopment, the demolition of blighted buildings, and more.

For more information on the new Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Program, visit Development.Ohio.Gov/Demolition.

Governor DeWine Announces Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced the launch of a new program aimed at helping local courts more efficiently process increasing numbers of court cases.

The Office of Criminal Justice Services, which is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, began accepting applications for the new Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program today. A total of \$10 million in funding is available to help courts reduce the time-to-disposition of pending cases, remove barriers to the timely resolution of cases, and apply creative solutions to improve case flow.

“This new grant program is part of Ohio’s comprehensive approach toward supporting every aspect of our criminal justice system,” said Governor DeWine. “Court caseloads are increasing as local law enforcement works aggressively to hold criminals accountable, and we want to help our courts handle current backlogs and prevent future case accumulations.”

Eligible recipients for one- or two-year projects that can be back-dated to April 1 include: Municipal or county courts.

Common pleas, domestic relations, general, juvenile, or probate courts.

Appellate courts.

Projects that may be eligible for funding include but are not limited to pre-trial triage programs, virtual competency assessment teams, and technology programs to simplify bench warrant processing. Grants can also be used to recruit court staff, fill vacancies, or resume positions that had been eliminated due to the pandemic.

A voluntary bidders training webinar will take place July 11 at 10 a.m. to provide information helpful for both the application preparation and review process. Please visit <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7847932892469866256> to complete the registration. The deadline to submit an RFP is July 29 at 5 p.m.

The Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program is funded as part of the \$250 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding that Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly dedicated to first responders last year to help counter various pressing issues exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, including increases in violent crime and decreases in staffing levels in criminal justice fields.

Other assistance for first responders developed by Governor DeWine since taking office in 2019 include the creation of the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center, Ohio School Safety Center, Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment, Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness, Ohio Ballistics Testing Initiative, Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, Ohio Crime Lab Efficiency Program, and Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program.

Governor DeWine Announces Launch of OhioRISE, First-Ever Highly Specialized Behavioral Health Program for Kids with Most Complex Needs



Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor

hope for Ohio families who have struggled to find the care their child desperately needs,” said Ohio Department of Medicaid Director Maureen Corcoran. “Though we are just beginning, OhioRISE is our commitment to every family in every community throughout the state, to have access to dedicated, behavioral health resources and a team of experts who will assemble and coordinate local supports for our children who need it most.”

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine discusses OhioRISE

Through a partnership with Aetna Better Health of Ohio, Medicaid’s OhioRISE program addresses longstanding gaps in care and coordination that often result in families having to navigate complex, often siloed systems on their own. In the most unfortunate circumstances, these gaps and lack of coordination have resulted in families relinquishing custody of their child so they can access much-needed behavioral healthcare services.

“Eight years ago, my family was in crisis. My wife and I were forced to surrender custody of our son Andrew to access necessary treatment for his extreme behavioral health needs caused by Autism and several mental illnesses. My story is not unique. Ohio Parents of multisystem youth have faced similar agonizing choices for decades,” said Mark Butler, a parent and advocate. “OhioRISE represents a new day for our state; the program would have helped us access the care Andrew needed without us surrendering custody of our child. Tonight, a family will be spared the trauma we endured while getting the help they need.”

The program features a new statewide network of care management entities that operate under the OhioRISE plan and serve as community-based experts in navigating and coordinating care. OhioRISE also aims to keep more families together by creating access to new and enhanced, evidence-based mental health services.

The Ohio Department of Medicaid has been working with partner state agencies to identify youth eligible to start in OhioRISE immediately. Proactively enrolled children and youth include those currently in custody of a children services agency who are receiving intensive residential treatment and youth who were recently admitted for inpatient hospital care.

OhioRISE is expected to grow and expand access to care in its first year. By the end of year one, Ohio Medicaid expects to enroll up to 50,000 children and youth with new, specialized services and support. Ohio Medicaid will work closely with Aetna Better Health of Ohio to continuously improve the program to ensure Ohio’s children and families receive quality care that leads to fulfilling lives.

OhioRISE is a cornerstone of Governor DeWine’s Children’s Initiative and is governed by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and Governor DeWine’s Family and Children First Cabinet Council. Families interested in learning about eligibility should contact Aetna OhioRISE Member Hotline at 833-711-0773.

New Projects Expected to Create More Than \$213 Million in Investments

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted today announced the approval of assistance for two projects set to create 375 new jobs. During its monthly meeting, the Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) reviewed economic development proposals brought to the board by JobsOhio and its regional partners. Collectively, the projects are expected to result in more than \$22.9 million in new payroll and spur more than \$213 million in investments across Ohio.

Projects approved by the TCA include:

CENTRAL

Pharmavite LLC, city of New Albany (Licking County), expects to create 225 full-time positions, generating \$14.7 million in new annual payroll as a result of the company’s new project in New Albany. Pharmavite is a manufacturer of vitamin and supplement products under the brand names Nature Made, MegaFood, EQUELLE, and Nurish. The TCA approved a 1.683%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.

Forsee Power Inc., city of Hilliard (Franklin County), expects to create 150 full-time positions, generating \$8.2 million in new payroll as a result of the company’s new project in Hilliard. Forsee Power designs and manufactures smart battery systems for a sustainable electric transport, including light vehicles, trucks, trains, and ships. The TCA approved a 1.605%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for this project.