

# Governor DeWine Awards \$1.67 Million for First Responder Wellness

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced the first round of funding to be awarded to local first responder agencies as part of the new Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program.

A total of 26 agencies will receive \$1.67 million to help them support the wellness needs of law enforcement officers, dispatchers, firefighters, paramedics, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs).

“Our first responders face the daily challenge of providing the highest level of response and care to Ohioans during traumatic circumstances, having little to no time to effectively process the stress brought on by these situations,” said Governor DeWine. “We created this grant program to help our first responders take care of themselves so that they can continue taking care of others.”

online wellness app for confidential support.

Bellefontaine Police Department (Logan County): \$119,420 for wellness and fitness programming including nutrition consultations, physical therapy, and mental health wellness checks.

Brecksville Police & Fire Departments (Cuyahoga County): \$14,800 for fire department and law enforcement wellness plans.

Canton Police Department (Stark County): \$124,400 for employee assistance program counseling services and a dedicated wellness coordinator.

Cleveland Department of Public Safety (Cuyahoga County): \$310,000 to hire two therapists, provide access to an online app for confidential wellness support, and train mindfulness instructors.

Defiance County 911 Center: \$25,000 to offer a health and wellness program for employees.

Delaware Police Department (Delaware County): \$34,800 for annual mental wellness checks.

Eagle Joint Fire District (Trumbull County): \$1,974 to give employees and their families access to up to five free professional counseling sessions per year.

Grove City Division of Police (Franklin County): \$12,400 for a peer support program.

Hicksville Police Department (Defiance County): \$8,300 for peer support training, access to an online wellness app, and incident stress intervention.

Huron County Sheriff's Office: \$63,172.04 to hire a wellness coordinator, offer trauma counseling, and provide access to an online app for confidential wellness support.

Logan Police Department (Hocking County): \$20,293.54 to provide access to an online app that offers confidential wellness support and a wellness training module.

Lucas County Sheriff's Office: \$38,720 to provide support sessions for employees focusing on wellness and disease prevention.

Mayfield Village Police & Fire Departments (Cuyahoga County): \$173,340.40 for a comprehensive mental health, wellness, and physical fitness program for fire and police.

Miami Township Fire & EMS (Clermont County): \$220,000 to hire a frontline behavioral health support specialist to work with police, fire, and EMS for various services including critical incident debriefing.

Montville Township Police Department (Medina County): \$13,898.75 to offer a mental health program to staff and their families focused on wellness.

Pierce Township Police Department (Clermont County): \$12,537.44 to make counseling more readily accessible and for officer training specific to stress management and psychological first aid.

Pleasant Valley Joint Fire District (Union County): \$45,050 for a wellness and fitness initiative focused on medical examinations, fitness, rehabilitation, and behavioral health.

Scioto County Sheriff's Office: \$272,537.24 to hire a dedicated wellness coordinator and a staff clinician.

Sheffield Village Police Department (Lorain County): \$19,500 to provide access to an online wellness app and online wellness courses.

Sidney Police Department (Shelby County): \$22,000 for a wellness plan for both law enforcement officers and firefighters.

Springboro Division of Police (Warren County): \$11,664 for wellness checks for police department personnel.

St. Clairsville Police Department (Belmont County): \$5,200 to provide access to an online wellness app that provides confidential wellness support.

Vandalia Division of Police (Montgomery County): \$13,000 to provide access to a health and wellness app that provides confidential support and an online library of wellness courses.

Youngstown Police Department (Mahoning

County): \$36,000 to provide access to an online wellness app that provides confidential wellness support.

The Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program, administered by the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, is offering a total of approximately \$75 million in funding for initiatives that support wellness programs addressing mental, physical, and emotional health issues unique to first responders; recruitment and retention efforts to restore workforce levels; onboarding and training costs; and explorer programs to engage young adults about first responder careers. Although this is the first round of funding to be awarded to local first responder agencies as part of this program, approximately \$1.3 million was awarded to several statewide service providers in June.

The 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 increased stress and decreased staffing levels.

Governor DeWine has also placed enhanced focus on the wellness of first responders through the creation of the Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness within the Ohio Department of Public Safety. The new statewide office focuses exclusively on the well-being of first responders and provides specialized support and training to help emergency-response agencies proactively address post-traumatic stress and other traumas caused by factors that are unique to first-responder careers.

Other assistance for first responders developed by Governor DeWine since taking office in 2019 includes the creation of the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center, Ohio School Safety Center, Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment, Ohio Prisoner Extradition Reimbursement Program, Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program, Ohio Ballistics Testing Initiative, Ohio Crime Lab Efficiency Program, Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program, Ohio Court Backlog Reduction Program, and the new eWarrant database.



Map of Award Winners

Entities receiving grant funding as part of the first round of the Ohio First Responder Recruitment, Retention, and Resilience Program are as follows:

Beachwood Police Department (Cuyahoga County): \$29,750 for an employee assistance program and to provide access to an online wellness app for confidential support.

Beavercreek Police Department (Greene County): \$23,629 for a wellness program coordinator, peer support team training, and access to an

# Governor DeWine Announces Application Period Opens for \$5 Million in Ohio Campus Safety Grants

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced that Ohio's 37 public institutions of higher education may apply for their share of \$5 million available in the Ohio Campus Safety Grant Program.

“Ohio continues to make investments to help protect our students and staff, whether they are in kindergarten or pursuing a graduate degree,” Gov. DeWine said. “Everyone should be able to learn in a safe, supportive environment so they can succeed both inside and outside the classroom.”

Today's announcement follows last month's award of \$47 million via the K-12 School Safety Grant Program to more than 1,000 schools.

“Applications are now open for Ohio's public colleges and universities,” said Chancellor Randy Gardner. “The Ohio Department of Higher Education and the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) will work together on reviewing these applications, with a plan to announce the grant awards in October.”

To be eligible for grant funding, colleges and universities must conduct a security and vulnerability assessment to identify potential areas for improvement. Eligible expenses include but are not limited to improved lighting in parking lots, security cameras at building entrances, and secure doors.

“These grants will help fund vital safety and

security upgrades to assist campus law enforcement agencies and area first responders,” said Tom Stickrath, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS), which houses the OSSC.

To find grant guidelines, public institutions of higher education can go to <https://ohioschoolsafetycenter.ohio.gov/college-and-universities/2022-campus-safety-grant-program>.

Governor DeWine created the Ohio School Safety Center in 2019. Housed within ODPS, the OSSC works to assist local schools, colleges and universities, and law enforcement agencies to prevent, prepare for, and respond to threats and acts of violence, including

self-harm, through a holistic, solutions-based approach to improving school safety.

The Campus Safety Grant Program is one of two new school safety programs launched last year by the OSSC. The 2022 K-12 School Safety Grant Program, administered in partnership with the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), awarded \$47 million on Aug. 3, and an additional \$53 million is available for both public and private schools to apply for this fall



# Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

## For the week ending September 9, 2022



Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Husted with QQE officials.

On Tuesday, Governor Mike DeWine and Lt. Governor John Husted were joined by a number of state and federal officials to tour QQE in Beavercreek.

QQE, which moved its headquarters from California to Ohio in 2020, is a leading supplier of fused quartz, an essential component for semiconductor manufacturing.

On Wednesday, Governor DeWine announced that more than two dozen local drug task forces in Ohio are receiving state support for their work to disrupt the drug trade and promote substance use awareness, prevention, and recovery.

Nearly \$2.3 million in grants from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be awarded among 30 existing drug task forces to help them identify high-level drug traffickers, dismantle large drug trafficking organizations, interrupt the flow of money and drugs from

international cartels, and prevent the sale of illegal narcotics to those suffering from substance use disorder.

“I'm committed to supporting our local drug task forces, which are working hard to stop the cartels that continuously push drugs into our communities, causing crime and addiction,” said Governor DeWine.

Also on Wednesday, Governor DeWine and the First Lady hosted a Fish Fry for members of the sportsmen and women, wilderness, and conservationist communities from all around Ohio.

A proclamation was presented recognizing September 24, 2022 as National Hunting and Fishing Day.

On Thursday, Governor DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Director Kimberly Murnieks announced that Fitch Ratings upgraded Ohio's long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to “AAA” from “AA+” reflecting a material strengthening of the state's financial resilience and budget management, particularly over the past two biennia.

The rating action is Ohio's first “AAA” rating with Fitch, which began rating Ohio's credit in the 1990s and represents the highest rating for

Ohio's IDR by one of the three main rating agencies since 1979. The benefit of a higher credit rating allows Ohio to achieve a lower cost of borrowing which ultimately achieves success on behalf of all taxpayers.

“This historic move by Fitch to upgrade Ohio's rating to 'AAA' comes as a result of our economic policies and fiscal stewardship that have brought measurable results,” said Governor DeWine. “Today's news is additional validation

that Ohio's fiscal management is on solid footing and our economy is surging ahead.”

“This announcement is real-world validation that we have put Ohio on the most solid financial footing the state has enjoyed in decades,” said Lt. Governor Husted. “It shows how fiscally strong and expertly managed we are as a state.”

The First Lady reading to a group of children while promoting Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.

Also on Thursday, the First Lady made stops in Shelby County, Auglaize County, and Miami County to promote Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio.

Lastly on Thursday, in accordance with the orders issued by the President of the Unit-



ed States of America and in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Governor DeWine ordered that the flags of the United States and the State of Ohio be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds throughout the State of Ohio until sunset on the day of interment.

Governor DeWine, the First Lady, and Lt. Governor Husted breaking ground on Intel with various leaders from the state and federal government, and Intel.

On Friday, Governor DeWine, the First Lady, Lt. Governor Husted, and the Second Lady joined Intel to officially break ground on the corporation's new semiconductor manufacturing facilities in Ohio. Intel plans to invest more than \$20 billion to build two state-of-the-art facilities that will generate more than 20,000 Ohio jobs, including 3,000 direct Intel jobs, 7,000 construction jobs, and tens of thousands of additional indirect and support jobs.

Lastly on Friday, in honor of those killed in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Governor DeWine ordered that all U.S. and Ohio flags be flown at half-staff upon all public buildings and grounds throughout the state on Patriot Day.

