

Governor DeWine Launches Ohio Crime Lab Efficiency Program to Eliminate Backlogs, Decrease Testing Turnaround Time

(CLEVELAND, Ohio) -- Ohio Governor Mike DeWine today announced a new plan to eliminate evidence-processing backlogs and increase the speed at which criminal evidence is analyzed in crime laboratories across the state.

Crime lab efficiency grant map

As part of Governor DeWine's new Ohio Crime Lab Efficiency Program, Ohio's 14 certified crime laboratories will receive a combined total of \$10 million to reduce and eliminate backlogs, increase overall lab efficiency, and decrease evidence processing time.

The crime laboratory grants are part of Governor DeWine's overall strategy to support Ohio's criminal justice community in their work to solve crimes, hold criminals responsible, secure justice for victims, and keep residents safe.

"Ohio's forensic scientists and chemists are oftentimes unsung heroes working behind the scenes on criminal investigations, but their work is truly critical in helping law enforcement solve cases and protect citizens," said Governor DeWine. "As we continue to help law enforcement officers with new tools to fight crime, it's just as important to support those in our crime labs with new tools to analyze evidence. The awards we're announcing today will help scientists do their jobs better and more efficiently to get crime-solving test results back into the hands of investigators sooner and violent criminals off the streets faster."

Awarded funds will be used to meet the individual needs expressed by each laboratory such as new equipment and increased staffing to eliminate backlogs of DNA, firearm, trace, fingerprint, and drug evidence. Funds will also be used to decrease the turnaround time of forensic toxicology and forensic pathology test results and to proactively prevent future backlogs associated with nationwide pandemic-induced increases in violent crime.

The Canton/Stark County Crime Laboratory will receive a \$250,000 grant for a new laboratory information management system to track trends and improve timeliness through the use of electronic reports.

The Central Ohio Regional Crime Laboratory will receive a \$250,000 grant for employee training, technology to triage casework, and overtime costs associated with backlog reduction.

The Columbus Police Crime Laboratory will receive a \$1 million grant to purchase additional software and technology to allow for more DNA and ballistic samples to be processed concurrently for backlog reduction and decreased turnaround time.

The Cuyahoga County Regional Forensic Science Laboratory will receive a \$1 million grant for overtime costs, new equipment related to fingerprint, firearm, and trace evidence backlog reduction, and to outsource some firearm evidence examination services.

The Franklin County Coroner's Office will receive a

\$250,000 grant to contract with a forensic pathologist to assist in completing backlogged cases and for new automated sample processing technology to improve throughput efficiency and eliminate backlogged forensic toxicology cases.

The Hamilton County Coroner and Crime Laboratory will receive a \$1 million grant to hire additional staff and purchase additional equipment and supplies for backlog reduction in its firearm

will receive a \$250,000 grant to address current and anticipated backlogs of digital and drug evidence with new digital evidence processing software and controlled substance instrumentation.

The Miami Valley Regional Crime Lab will receive a \$1 million grant to reduce backlogs to pre-pandemic levels in its chemistry and DNA divisions through the purchase of new equipment to allow for increased case output.

The Ohio Attorney General's Office will receive a \$2.75 million grant for its three crime laboratories in London, Richfield, and Bowling Green for overtime costs associated with backlog reduction, new technology, and to outsource some chemistry cases.

The Ohio Division of the State Fire Marshal Forensic Lab will receive a \$250,000 grant for new forensic computers with more processing power for digital evidence to help lower turnaround time and eliminate digital evidence backlogs.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol Crime Laboratory will receive a \$1.25 million grant to replace drug-testing equipment that has reached the end of its useful life and to outsource some chemistry cases to reduce the current backlog.

The Toledo Police Department Forensic Crime Laboratory will receive a \$250,000 grant for new equipment to double the number of cases that can be processed at once for backlog reduction in its firearm division.

Ohio's crime laboratories attribute current evidence backlogs to workforce issues caused by COVID-19 and the nationwide increase in violent crime also caused by the pandemic. The grants are funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds dedicated by Governor DeWine and the Ohio General Assembly to state and local first-responder agencies to counter increases in violent crime and to mitigate impacts on staffing levels and first-responder wellness caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other initiatives recently launched by Governor DeWine to counter pandemic-induced increases in violent crime include the new Ohio Ballistics Testing Initiative, which increases local law enforcement's access to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, and the launch of the new Ohio Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program to fund local strategies to reduce crime in local communities.

Since taking office in 2019, Governor DeWine has launched several initiatives to help law enforcement in their work to protect the public and solve crimes. New statewide offices include the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center, Ohio School Safety Center, Ohio Office of Law Enforcement Recruitment, and the Ohio Office of First Responder Wellness. Governor DeWine, in partnership with the Ohio General Assembly, also secured funding to help local law enforcement agencies extradite wanted offenders, enter warrants into state and federal databases, pay for critical training, and more.



and DNA divisions.

The Lake County Crime Lab will receive a \$250,000 grant for additional drug-testing equipment to allow for more simultaneous case analysis and for a new firearm water recovery tank to prevent a future backlog in firearm cases.

The Lorain County Crime/Drug Lab will receive a \$250,000 grant for facility renovations to improve safety and efficiency and new equipment for backlog reduction of drug cases.

The Mansfield Division of Police Forensic Science Laboratory

Dear Reader

I am so excited to share that my team is growing and we are increasing our collective power as a result of the historic voter turnout in 2020 and 2021. I helped start APIAVote in 2007 with the vision to strengthen the presence of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in our democracy, by investing in communities and trusted leaders to organize, educate and empower one another to have their voices heard. The progress we have made over the past 15 years has been a testament to our shared belief that our voices matter. But there is so much more to do in order to sustain and build on the momentum we helped start.

With our new website and bold new logo, we want-



ed to renew this commitment to our mission and vision: to be the nation's leading nonpartisan nonprofit dedicated to engaging, educating, and empowering AAPI

communities to strengthen their voices and create impact. In the next few years, APIAVote will expand our efforts to more than double our operating budget in order to increase our capacity to directly invest in our Alliance for Civic Empowerment (ACE) network. We know that every dollar and every minute we can devote to our community-based partners increases our collective power through civic participation at every level.

You have a role in our emboldened new journey.

First, help me recruit others and grow our network. Share this email with your circle of friends and family. Encour-

age them to sign up for our email list to be informed and prepared to take action on the issues that matter to us. Help us grow our community of like-minded people to create a world where the concerns and needs of AAPIs are part of the decision-making process and addressed with equal consideration.

Second, renew your investment in our work with a donation today. Your financial support is critical to powering our shared vision to strengthen our communities and to those trusted leaders who serve them.

Now is the time for action. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are gaining our country's attention and I need your help to meet this moment and ensure that the decisions made in Washington DC and in every state capital and town hall include our voices. Throughout May, you will receive regular emails from my team so you can understand how our growth is focused on meeting the needs of our growing communities.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. I ask that you accept my invitation to join our bold new efforts and invest your time and resources to ensure that our Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities have the information and motivation to participate in their democracy.

- Christine Chen

Ahead of Earth Day, Rep. Brown Announces Ohio will Receive \$214 Million to Reduce Carbon Emissions Under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

WASHINGTON - Today, ahead of Earth Day, Representative Shontel M. Brown (OH-11) announced that Ohio will receive \$214 million to reduce carbon pollution across the state and ease congestion in local communities. The federal funding is being provided to the state through the new Carbon Reduction Program, an initiative established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is delivering critical investments in Ohio to reduce harmful pollution and address climate change," said Rep. Brown. "The new Carbon Reduction Program will not only provide cleaner trans-

portation options in Northeast Ohio, but it will also help to reduce commute times, expand access to transit services, and advance justice in our communities."

The investments total more than \$6.4 billion across the country and are administered under the Federal Highway Administration's Carbon Reduction Program. These funds can be invested in a range of eligible projects, including:

- Public transit services;
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Traffic flow improvements;
- Congestion management technology; and
- Pedestrian and cycle trails.



克里夫蘭傷痛診所
Dr. Wenning Zhao, Acupuncturist from China, Chiropractic Physician
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