

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine Week in Review

Monday, September 4, 2023



Ohio currently has the most filled jobs in history, and Governor Mike DeWine and First Lady Fran DeWine wished Ohio's entire workforce a safe and happy Labor Day. Ohio's talented workforce is one of the reasons why Ohio is The Heart of it All!

Tuesday, September 5, 2023



Governor DeWine announced the availability of \$100 million in funding to help local communities eliminate dangerous railroad crossings.

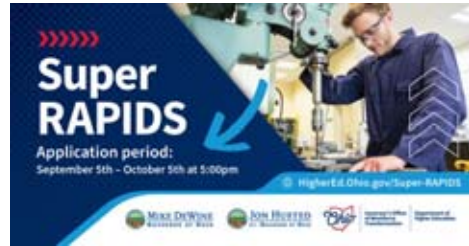
Ohio has approximately 5,700 railroad grade crossings, which are locations where roadways intersect with railroad tracks. Funding from Governor DeWine's new Ohio Rail Crossing Elimination Program will support the work of local communities to engineer construction projects to eliminate these crossings and pay matching funds that are required for additional support from the Federal Railroad Administration.

"To compete for federal grants, communities need the resources to develop the projects, prepare federal applications, and commit matching funds to make Ohio's grant applications competitive," said Governor DeWine. "Railroad grade projects can be complex and expensive, and without state assistance, most communities do not have the resources to develop them. This program will provide support to get these projects moving in the right direction."

Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who serves as Director of the Governor's

For the week ending September 8, 2023

Office of Workforce Transformation, announced that the application period for the Super RAPIDS grant program is now open. Super RAPIDS (Regionally Aligned Priorities in Delivering Skills) focuses on providing Ohio Technical Centers, community colleges, and universities with the right kind of equipment to prepare students for the workforce, helping to meet the needs of regional businesses.



"To continue Ohio's momentum, students must be trained and ready for jobs in tech and advanced manufacturing," said Governor DeWine. "We championed Super RAPIDS in the state budget to ensure that training providers have the right kind of resources and equipment needed to educate the next generation for the jobs of the future."

"As we prepare for computer chip and advanced manufacturing supply chain jobs, it's crucial to support and create new lab and manufacturing technology spaces for educating graduates with the most advanced skills through higher education," said Lt. Governor Husted. "This program helps Ohio Technical Centers, community colleges and universities purchase the latest equipment to educate more students on the most up-to-date technology needed for the 21st century economy."



Lt. Governor Husted traveled to Cuyahoga

Community College (Tri-C) in Cleveland for a tour and roundtable discussion highlighting how schools can use RAPIDS funding.

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Governor DeWine announced \$5 million in grant funding is available to help local law enforcement agencies invest in body camera equipment and pay for associated expenses.

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) opened the application period for the third round of the Ohio Body-Worn Camera Grant Program. Governor DeWine launched the program in 2021 to assist local law enforcement agencies with costs related to camera equipment, video storage, editing software, public record management, maintenance, and more.

"Body cameras act as an impartial eye on the interactions between law enforcement and the public, so they're incredibly important for transparency," said Governor DeWine. "This program is for any local law enforcement agency that doesn't already have a body-worn camera program or needs support to enhance and maintain its existing technology."

Thursday, September 7, 2023



Governor DeWine announced that the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation and Goodwill Columbus, through a partnership with The Ohio State University, Columbus State Community College, and the Workforce Development Board of Central Ohio will offer free, broadband-related job training at Goodwill Columbus' newest job training center on Brice Rd.

"To expand high-speed internet across the state, we need to build the broadband industry workforce," said Governor DeWine. "In fact, we'll need about 32,000 skilled workers to prepare the infrastructure alone."

"Providing this training now will ensure that broadband companies can access and spend the coming infrastructure investments to ultimately position Ohio as a prime destination for new, innovative companies seeking access to the next generation of wired and wireless communications," added Governor DeWine.

The 179th Airlift Wing will conduct a historic redesignation ceremony to officially become the 179th Cyberspace Wing at 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at the Mansfield Lahm Air National Guard Base in Mansfield, Ohio.

The event will celebrate the 75-year aviation history of the wing while highlighting the importance of the new cyberspace mission for the nation, Air Force, state, and community. The ceremony will feature several speakers and include a traditional changing of the unit flag and guidon. The 179th was selected to become the Air National Guard's first-ever cyberspace wing in August 2021.

"The transition of this wing from an airlift wing to a cyberspace wing is great news for the state of Ohio and a model for the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. "Ohio speaks with one voice in aerospace and defense matters, and we were successful in winning this new mission because it requires bipartisan support at the local, state, and national levels. The strategic realignment of the 179th Wing to a cyber mission will cement Mansfield's critical cyber warfare role well into the future."

Friday, September 8, 2023

Governor DeWine announced the second round of Workforce Safety Innovation Grants awarded to advance worker safety in Ohio.

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) awarded the grants, totaling \$5 million, through its Workforce Safety Intervention Center (WSIC). The Ohio State University, the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, the University of Cincinnati, and Kent State University are among the recipients.

"We are delighted to collaborate with these exceptional recipients who have demonstrated unwavering dedication to enhancing health and safety for the workforce," said Governor DeWine. "Each project represents a steppingstone toward a safer work environment, and we look forward to seeing the transformative impact of their innovation solutions."

Governor DeWine Marks Third Annual Overdose Awareness Day on August 31

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine will observe Ohio's third annual Overdose Awareness Day on Thursday, Aug. 31. Established in 2021 by Senate Bill 30, Ohio Overdose Awareness Day aims to raise public awareness and remember the lives lost to the ongoing national opioid epidemic. It also helps usher in September as Recovery Month.

"Overdose Awareness Day is a day when we can come together as a community, remembering those who have lost their lives due to overdose and celebrating those who are in long-term recovery from substance use disorders," said Governor DeWine. "Overdose Awareness Day is ultimately about hope."

To help local communities promote Overdose Awareness Day, leaders from Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (MHAS) have created an Ohio Overdose Awareness Day Toolkit. The toolkit includes social media graphics and posts, videos, posters, and digital ads that can be used by local communities and organizations to raise awareness. The toolkit also aims to educate Ohioans on what to do in an overdose situation and how to get help for someone

struggling with addiction.

"Overdose Awareness Day honors those who have lost their lives to drug overdoses. It also emphasizes the importance of raising awareness about overdose risks, reducing stigma around substance use, and advocating for accessible treatment and harm reduction strategies," said Aimee Shadwick, director of Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative. "The day encourages communities to come together to support individuals struggling with addiction and promote education and prevention efforts."

Communities throughout Ohio will host local awareness celebrations with the aid of funding provided by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). OhioMHAS provided mini-grants totaling more than \$600,000 to 39 Ohio counties, nearly triple the number of counties that hosted events in 2022. ODH also provided grants to support awareness celebrations, contributing \$445,400 to 21 local health departments and 41 Project DAWN (Deaths Avoided With Naloxone) sites.

In addition to purple flags and other symbolic displays to remember Ohioans lost to overdoses, many local events will feature inspiring recovery

stories, promote local treatment and recovery support service options, food, and entertainment. In many areas, local health department officials and Project DAWN groups will distribute free naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

"Under Governor DeWine's leadership, we have worked very hard to fight stigma and confront other barriers to treatment that prevent people from getting the help they need to achieve wellness and reach their full potential," said OhioMHAS Director Criss. "Overdose Awareness Day not only brings dignity to those we've lost and those currently facing substance use challenges - it sets the stage for important community conversations about addiction and helps to promote greater access to prevention, treatment and recovery support services."

As part of this year's observance, state officials are also promoting Naloxone.Ohio.gov, an online resource that provides Ohioans with a simplified process for obtaining free naloxone, a life-saving drug used to reverse an opioid overdose. The website makes requesting naloxone as seamless as possible for all Ohioans, whether they are a first responder, community member, or distribution site, and enhances

access to prevention and treatment information.

"Every overdose death is a tragedy, and some of these deaths could be preventable if more people carried naloxone," said Ohio Department of Health Director Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA. "That's why our department is focused on getting naloxone into as many hands as possible."

ODH manages the Project DAWN program, which continues to provide increasing numbers of naloxone kits. In 2014, the program distributed 2,894 kits, which resulted in 190 known overdose reversals. In 2022, the number of kits distributed had grown to 205,584 and the known overdose reversals to 18,244.

In recognition of Overdose Awareness Day, state flags displayed at all state buildings and public institutions will be flown at half-staff from sunrise to sunset. Read Governor DeWine's proclamation for Overdose Awareness Day. Visit RecoveryOhio.Gov for more information on what Ohio is doing to combat opioid addiction and prevent overdose deaths.



Ohio Launches Venture Capital Programs for Tech-Based Companies

(COLUMBUS, Ohio)—Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Lt. Governor Jon Husted, and Ohio Department of Development Director Lydia Mihalik announced the availability of approximately \$111 million to support Ohio tech-based companies.

Two new funds - the Ohio Early Stage Focus Fund and Ohio Venture Fund - will help increase the amount of early-stage capital invested in Ohio technology-based companies, accelerate the growth of high-potential companies, and create a climate that supports the development, retention, and attraction of technology companies in Ohio.

"These programs will address gaps in early-stage capital as companies mature and new startups emerge, as well as for underserved com-

munities that face barriers to accessing capital," said Governor DeWine. "By increasing access to funds, we are ensuring that technology companies have the support they need to thrive in the heart of innovation."

Ohio Early Stage Focus Fund will provide capital to professionally managed investment funds to support early-stage technology companies that are woman- or minority-owned or based in an area that has been underserved by venture capital. Organizations and private investment firms are eligible to apply for \$1 million - \$5 million of the more than \$36 million available. More information can be found at development.ohio.gov/EarlyStageFocusFund.

Ohio Venture Fund will provide investment capital to professionally managed investment

funds to support Ohio technology companies with early-stage capital through Series A. Organizations and private investment firms are eligible to apply for \$5 million - \$10 million of the \$75 million available. More information can be found at development.ohio.gov/VentureFund.

"Venture capital isn't just an investment; it's a catalyst for innovation and a testament to the power of bold ideas here in Ohio," said Lt. Governor Jon Husted. "Venture capital fuels the dreams that redefine industries, empowering pioneers to shape the future we envision today. This will help pave the way for sustained technological advancement and further reinforce Ohio's position as the silicon heartland."

The new programs are part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Venture Capital

Program. The Ohio Department of Development began accepting proposals for funds last week.

"In Ohio, we're supporting our homegrown talent and investing in the next generation of industry leaders," said Director Mihalik. "Through Ohio's Venture Capital Programs, we're creating an opportunity and fostering an environment where startups can thrive and create lasting impact for Ohio's people, businesses, and communities."

Both programs are competitive, and proposals will be scored based on responsiveness to requirements of the RFP. Letters of intent are due by 2 p.m., Sept. 21 and final proposals must be submitted by 2 p.m., Oct. 19.

More information on the program can be found at development.ohio.gov/ssbci.