RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund

2027 Request for Proposals

Applications Are Due December 21, 2026, at 5:00 PM EST

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OCJS AND RECOVERYOHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND

The Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) is a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. By statute, OCJS is the lead justice planning and assistance office for the state, administering millions of dollars in state and federal criminal justice funding every year. OCJS also evaluates programs and products, develops training, resources, and best practices for criminal justice professionals and communities.

The RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund is part of Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative, which was developed to ensure Ohio acts aggressively to address the public health crisis caused by the repercussions of the drug epidemic and mental illness. Funding is provided to support the recommendations of the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Application - The application forms will be made available through OCJS's online grants management system. For technical assistance on any part of the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund application, call Amy Gillard at 614.466.1831 or email ajgillard@dps.ohio.gov. For technical assistance with the online grants management system https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/ please review the support materials on https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/support, or contact your grant coordinator by email. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-administration/contact.

Review - RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund proposals will be reviewed by OCJS staff and DPS personnel. Project budgets will be reviewed to ensure that costs are allowable.

Prioritization of Funding - Applications containing only interdiction related narratives and expenses will receive less funding. Projects should carefully explain budget components to show recovery linkages. Priority funding is given to projects that show RecoveryOhio related linkages in both the narrative and budget sections in the applications. Final recommendations are made by the OCJS Executive Director and approved by the Department of Public Safety Director.

Notification - Funding decisions will be posted on the OCJS website and notifications will be emailed to selected applicants. Before final approval, applicants must complete and return all required forms.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include: County, municipal, township, and village law enforcement agencies, which are a part of a drug task force. These entities may only apply for a grant award from the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement fund if they meet the following criteria:

The grant award will only be given to a drug task force whose implementing agency participates in OIBRS or in the Uniform Crime Reporting program as set forth in section 5502.62(C)(6) of the Revised Code.

A drug task force receiving funding is required to deconflict using Case Explorer available through Ohio HIDTA. For more information on HIDTA deconfliction please call the Help Desk at: 301-489-1744 or go to https://ohiohidta.net for support.

Drug task forces are required to report drug activity to the DISCO system on a monthly basis. DISCO is part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety's SOLVE platform. Drug Task Forces are required to collaborate with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC); and are required to adhere to the Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (OTFCA) Best Practices.

Drug task forces are required to attend OTFCA meetings, which will take place twice a year. Important grant and project management information is shared at the meetings. Commanders and drug task force staff should make attending the all-day meetings a priority.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund applicants must have an organization, or subgrantee, that will serve as the fiduciary agent and assume overall responsibility for the grant. This organization, or subgrantee, must be a unit of local government. A unit of local government has legislative autonomy, jurisdiction, and authority to act in certain circumstances. Units of government include a county, municipality, township, or village. If two or more jointly apply, they must designate one body to take the lead role and identify that agency's fiscal officer. The law enforcement agency cannot act as the subgrantee.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will provide funding to allow drug task forces to build new and strengthen existing partnerships with local law enforcement and cover drug task force expenses in combination with treatment and education resources. Primary grant purposes include deflection,

diversion, outreach, education, prevention, harm reduction, and Quick Response Teams activities related to the RecoveryOhio Initiative. A secondary purpose area of the grant is to defray expenses that a drug task force organization incurs in performing its functions related to the enforcement of the state's drug laws and other state laws related to illegal drug activity. Each applicant will need to demonstrate how their application meets the stated purpose of the fund.

LENGTH OF FUNDING

The project period for the 2027 RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be May 1, 2027-April 30, 2028.

PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Use the following checklist as a general guide for submitting proposals to OCJS. Read the entire RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund RFP before completing and submitting proposals.

- ☐ Title Page
- ☐ Problem Statement/Target Population
- ☐ Project Description
- ☐ Sustainability/Accomplishments/ Obstacles
- ☐ Project Objectives
- ☐ Timeline/Activities
- ☐ Organization/Staff Capacity
- ☐ Collaboration
- ☐ Executive Summary
- ☐ Budget

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Applications are submitted online through the OCJS Grants Management System https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/. Application materials will be available on November 1, 2026. New applicants must first register in the online grant system at https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/. Applicants that have previously used the system may use their existing account. It is recommended that new applicants contact OCJS once they register in the system **Applications must be completed and in a submitted status by 5 p.m. on December 21, 2026.** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Failure to follow the specified requirements will also result in the application not being reviewed or considered for funding.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be in the **Application Submitted Status** in the OCJS Grants Management System to be considered for funding.

For technical assistance on any part of the RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund application, email Amy Gillard at ajgillard@dps.ohio.gov. For technical assistance with OCJS Grants Management System https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/, please review the support materials available online at https://ocjsgrants.dps.ohio.gov/s/support, or contact your grant coordinator by email. You can find your OCJS Regional Contact here: https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-administration/contact.

RECOVERYOHIO RECOMMENDATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT

RecoveryOhio Recommendation Area	Law Enforcement Linkage
Prevention – to promote effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental illness and additional conditions and decrease adverse outcomes.	***Expanding Law Enforcement's Role*** ▪ Recognize and strengthen the prevention role of law enforcement in school and communities by providing training opportunities, including them in assessment and planning efforts, and implementing best practices that expand their presence as role models, mediators of conflicts, and supporters for parental, school, and community responses to substance use and mental illness.
Harm Reduction – to decrease adverse consequences of illicit drug use, alcohol use, mental illness and other illnesses.	***Increasing Naloxone Availability*** ▪ Accessibility of naloxone for overdose reversal and remove barriers to promote greater use.
Treatment and Recovery Supports – to ensure that all strategies addressing mental illness and substance use disorders include effective approaches to address the needs of all Ohioans and that services and supports in institutions and community programs provide equitable access and clinical approaches that effectively meet the needs of Ohio's underserved populations.	***Exploring Crisis Infrastructure Models*** ▪ Quick Response Teams involving law enforcement. ***Streamlining Information Sharing to Ease Collaboration and Improve Care*** ▪ Develop Trainings and tools that help collaborative partners share information for care coordination while maintaining compliance with federal privacy and confidentiality laws related to mental illness and substance use disorders.

Drug Trafficking	***Decreasing the Supply of Drugs*** ▪ Continue to coordinate efforts between the Ohio Department of Public Safety and the Ohio Attorney General's Office to work with law enforcement agencies to expand proven drug task force models that specifically target and disrupt the flow of money and drugs from cartels that target individuals struggling with substance use disorders.
Specialty Populations – Juveniles	***Focusing on Organizations for Youths*** ▪ Expand collaboration among organizations meeting the prevention, treatment, and recovery needs of Ohio's young people and organizations serving youths, such as Boy & Girls Clubs, YMCAs and others.
Specialty Populations – First Responders	***Greater Support for First Responders*** ▪ Support collaborative strategies that increase local support available to first responders related to secondary trauma. Build targeted efforts for suicide prevention among first responders.

RECOVERYOHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT PROPOSAL NARRATIVE

Problem Statement/Target Population -Applicants should explain or clearly describe the problem or issue to be addressed, and its impact on the community. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Clearly describes the nature and scope of the problem. The development of the nature and scope of the problem should be data driven. The applicant will need to provide relevant national, state, and local level data/statistics, as well as agency statistics, to document and support the problem to be addressed. DISCO reporting will be verified to ensure applicants are up to date.
2. Clearly provides specific demographic information on the target population, such as race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, geography. This should include the following:
    a. **Population Served** – The population served will be based on the task forces' collaboration board/list of participating agencies identified in the application. Agencies listed as part of a collaboration board must be active participants in the drug task force. When a municipality is being served exclusively by one task force without the participation of the sheriff of the jurisdiction, the population estimate shall include

only the population for that municipality. Population totals must include only the actual population being served. Task forces should use the decennial census data for 2020 from the following site only, Ohio Department of Development https://development.ohio.gov/about-us/research/census/decennial-census

b. **Counties Served** – Each task force must also indicate a numerical "Counties Served" designation. The "Counties Served" number includes all counties being served by the task force with the participation of that county's sheriff explained in the Organization/Staff Capacity and Collaboration section.

Project Description-Applicants should describe a plan of action that the proposed project will implement in order to address the identified problem discussed in the problem statement. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Clearly describes the proposed activities and approach (i.e., model or practice) to be taken given the nature of the problem to be addressed. The approach should seem logical given the characteristics and needs of the identified target population.
2. Clearly describes the law enforcement activities linked to the RecoveryOhio initiatives on page 4 of this solicitation that are either currently being done by the task force OR that will be completed with the RecoveryOhio funding. This section should be as detailed as possible.

Sustainability/Accomplishments/Obstacles -Applicants should describe a plan of action that the proposed project will implement in order to sustain the program activities discussed in the Project Description. Applicants should also describe previous accomplishments and obstacles they experienced when carrying out similar activities that were discussed in the Project Description. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Explains the steps that will be taken to ensure long-term program sustainability (i.e., the ability for the program to maintain its services over time). The applicant must demonstrate a commitment to the program by describing a plan for maintaining programmatic activities after OCJS funding ends.
2. Describes any previous program accomplishments and how these accomplishments influence program activities. If the current proposal is requesting funds for a continuation of programming activities, these accomplishments should be related to programming that was completed under previous funding.
3. Describes any previous or ongoing programmatic obstacles or challenges and how they were addressed. If the current proposal is requesting funds for a continuation of programming activities, these obstacles should be related to programming that was completed under previous funding.

Project Objectives-Applicants should describe the outcomes or changes anticipated as a result of the proposed project. Objectives should be related to the RecoveryOhio Initiative and Law Enforcement

Linkages. The achievement of the objectives should provide an outcome that reflects a measurable change for the target population due to the services offered by the program. Please provide two objectives, with performance indicators and baseline numbers that further the goal of the program.

There are two types of objectives:

Outcome objectives describe the measured changes (impact that will occur as a result of implementing the proposed project.

Process (or Output) objectives describe the "process" (activities/steps) that a program will implement.

Applications must provide two objectives and at least one objective should be an outcome objective. Each objective should include performance indicators, baseline numbers and data collection methods that further the goal(s) of the program.

The application will be evaluated on how effectively it:

1. Clearly identifies project objectives (measured change as a result of implementing the proposed project).
2. Clearly identifies performance indicators (how you will measure that change, what instruments and/or tools are to be used, etc.).
3. Clearly identifies any baseline data that exists. Baseline data is a result of past data collection efforts.

Timeline and Activities-Applicants should describe how the programmatic and grant administrative activities as well as the related outcomes and objectives will be reasonably achieved in the given project period. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Presents a comprehensive, thorough timeline that is well-defined and comprehensively specifies what will be done, who (individuals and organizations) will do it, and when it will be accomplished. Include activities such as anticipated collaboration meetings, OCJS grant reporting deadlines and any other activities specific to the project. The timeline should be reasonable given the nature of the problem, the target population, and the approach/response discussed in earlier sections of the application.

Organization and Staff Capacity -Applicants should provide a comprehensive discussion of the history and accomplishments of the organization responsible for implementing the project. Identify any key staff that will be involved in the project, including the project director and other individuals

who will be responsible for administering the grant and implementing the program. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Clearly identifies the mission of the agency that will serve as the subgrantee and/or implementing agency.
2. Clearly identifies the key staff, including any volunteers that will be participating in the proposed project, including their qualifications, experience, and education.

Collaboration -Clearly identifies community partners that will help implement the RecoveryOhio Initiatives described in the Project Description, including their role in the projects (proposed or ongoing) and the key staff, and their qualifications and experience.

Executive Summary-While not a scored piece of the application this section is important in that information is pulled for reports to various government agencies please respond appropriately to the instructions in the grants management system.

BUDGET

Describe any costs associated with implementing the program. The application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

1. Presents a clear and detailed budget with a narrative that clearly explains and justifies the budget information.
2. Justifies the costs of the proposed programs and that the costs are considered reasonable in view of the types and range of activities to be conducted, the number of participants to be served, and the expected results and benefits.
3. Clearly links budget items to RecoveryOhio Initiatives identified in Project Description section as well as objectives.

General Ledger: Applicants are required to confirm the ongoing active use of a general ledger defined as a complete record of all the financial transactions over the life of your organization. The general ledger holds all the information needed to prepare financial statements and includes assets, liabilities, equity (net asset), revenue and expenses.

Budget Assistance: For information on successful budget completion, please visit Grants Monitoring and Fiscal Compliance at https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-monitoring-fiscal-compliance to access helpful tools including the Budget Category Overview and Fringe Benefits Summary. All costs associated listed in the grant budget must be necessary and reasonable for proper

and efficient performance and administration of the grant; be consistent with policies, regulations, and procedures that apply uniformly to both Federal and state awards; and be allocable to the grant.

COST LIMITS

Specific cost limits exist for certain allowable costs including:

- Lodging and meal per diem rates cannot exceed the rates set by the Federal Government Services Administration (GSA). The rates can be found at https://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates.
- Mileage rates cannot exceed the rates set by Ohio Budget Management (OBM). These rates can be found at https://obm.ohio.gov at https://obm.ohio.gov/reports-and-resources/08-state-travel-guidelines.
- Laptops, which cannot exceed $1250.
- Cell phones, which cannot exceed $600.
- Each application receives a Pre-Risk Assessment to determine risks associated with financial integrity. If an applicant is determined to be moderate, high, or priority high risk, specific conditions of awards may be required as part of the award process.
- An applicant may be deemed unqualified due to poor performance history of lack of demonstrated honesty or ethics.
- Fuel costs may be requested if the fuel is being used for programmatic purposes listed in the project narrative.

External Audit or Financial Report – applicants are required to upload a copy of the organization's most recent external audit or most recent financial report to the Notes and Attachments section of the application. This allows OCJS to ensure requirements are met for 2 C.F.R. § 200.331(f). Single Audit Act Amendment of 1996, and the OMB Circular A-133.

The Office of Criminal Justice Services has created a Financial Budget Definition Reference Guide that can be found at https://ocjs.ohio.gov at https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-monitoring-fiscal-compliance/compliance-tools/financial-budget-definition-reference-guide in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This is intended to be a general guide.

OCJS is committed to ensuring grant payments to Subawardees in the most cost-effective and efficient manner possible. In an effort to enhance existing accounts receivable procedures, OCJS requires all Subawardees receiving State of Ohio payments via paper check, to enroll in Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). For organizations with multiple physical address codes, specific EFT locations (accounts) may be connected to each address code. Electronic Funds Transfer Instructions can be

accessed at https://ocjs.ohio.gov at https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-monitoring-fiscal-compliance/compliance-tools/electronic-funds-transfer-instructions.

A list of costs that are not allowable can be found on at https://ocjs.ohio.gov at https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-administration/grants-forms-and-resources/unallowable-costs