



**Office of
Criminal Justice
Services**

RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund 2026 Application Guidelines

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE
October 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM EST**

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

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**Department of
Public Safety**

OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES

RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund

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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.

Regional Contacts: <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. A scoring matrix is utilized to determine points for each application.

Prioritization of Funding - Applications containing only interdiction related narratives and expenses will receive a lower score and 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 click [here](#) for support.
- Drug task forces are required to report drug activity to DISCO on a monthly basis, collaborate with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC); and are required to adhere to the OTFCA Best Practices.
- Drug task forces are required to attend Ohio Task Force Commanders Association (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 2026 RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund will be May 1, 2026-April 30, 2027.

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 and Collaboration
- ☐ Executive Summary
- ☐ Budget

FORMAT AND SUBMISSION

Applications are submitted online through the OCJS Grants Management System. Application materials will be available in the online Grants Management System on September 8, 2025. New applicants must first register in the online grant system at [Online Grants Management System](#). 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.

The deadline for submission is by 5:00 p.m. EST on October 9, 2025. 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, call Amy Gillard at 614.466.1831 or email ajgillard@dps.ohio.gov. Connect with the Grants Coordinator for your agency; Regional Contacts: <https://ocjs.ohio.gov/grants-funding-monitoring/grants-administration/contact>

RecoveryOhio Recommendations and Law Enforcement Involvement

RecoveryOhio Recommendation Area	Law Enforcement Linkage
<i>Prevention</i> – to promote effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental illness and additional conditions and decrease adverse outcomes.	<i>Expanding Law Enforcement’s Role</i> 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.
<i>Harm Reduction</i> – to decrease adverse consequences of illicit drug use, alcohol use, mental illness and other illnesses.	<i>Increasing Naloxone Availability</i> Accessibility of naloxone for overdose reversal and remove barriers to promote greater use.
<i>Treatment and Recovery Supports</i> – 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.	<i>Exploring Crisis Infrastructure Models</i> - Quick Response Teams involving law enforcement. <i>Streamlining Information Sharing to Ease Collaboration and Improve Care</i> - 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.
<i>Drug Trafficking</i>	<i>Decreasing the Supply of Drugs</i> 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.
<i>Specialty Populations – Juveniles</i>	<i>Focusing on Organizations for Youths</i> 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.
<i>Specialty Populations – First Responders</i>	<i>Greater Support for First Responders</i> 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 FUND GRANT 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. Application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

- 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.
- Clearly provides specific demographic information on the target population, such as race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, geography. This should include the following:
 - 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 2020 population census from the following site only: [Decennial Census | Development](#)
 - 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:

- 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.
- Clearly describes the law enforcement activities linked to the RecoveryOhio initiatives on page 3 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:

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.

Applications will be evaluated on how effectively it:

- Clearly identifies project objectives (measured change as a result of implementing the proposed project).
- Clearly identifies performance indicators (how you will measure that change, what instruments and/or tools are to be used, etc.).
- 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. Application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

- 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. Application will be evaluated as to how effectively it:

- Clearly identifies the mission of the agency that will serve as the subgrantee and/or implementing agency.
- 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:

- Presents a clear and detailed budget with a narrative that clearly explains and justifies the budget information.
- 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.
- Clearly links budget items to RecoveryOhio Initiatives identified in Project Description section as well as objectives.

Fiscal Considerations

- Lodging and meal per diem rates cannot exceed the rates set by the federal Government Services Administration (GSA). The rates can be found at [GSA Per Diem Rates](#).
- Mileage rates cannot exceed the rates set by Ohio Budget Management (OBM). These rates can be found at [OBM Travel Rule](#). The current OBM mileage rate is .58 per mile.
- 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](#) 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 on the OCJS website.
- For a list of costs that are not allowable, please click [Unallowable Costs](#)