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**CONTACT: Judy Converse**

**Public Information Officer, Ohio Traffic Safety Office**

**(614) 644-6052 – office**

**(614) 981-1751 - mobile**

[**jlconverse@dps.ohio.gov**](mailto:jlconverse@dps.ohio.gov)

**Governor DeWine Announces Nearly $2.5 Million for Teen Driver Training Scholarships**

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today $2.5 Million in grants to expand access to teen driver training for low-income Ohio families.

Thirty-five local school districts and governmental agencies will receive grants totaling $2,495,655 from the Drive to Succeed Scholarship Program. Funding awarded through the program is used to provide driver training scholarships to eligible teenage drivers across Ohio.

Governor DeWine launched the scholarship program in 2022 to support teenage drivers whose families cannot otherwise afford the cost of a driving school. The funding is expected to provide driver training scholarships to approximately 5,500 Ohio students living in 43 counties.

This is the second round of funding offered through the scholarship program, which is administered by the Ohio Traffic Safety office (OTSO).

“This program is already helping hundreds of teens learn skills to be safer drivers, and we are happy to help even more young people receive driver training,” said Governor DeWine. “When young drivers know the strategies to stay safe on the roads, the roads are safer for everyone.”

The following agencies will receive grants in the latest round of awards:

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| **Agency** | **County** | **Amount** |
| Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center\* | Athens & Meigs | $30,450 |
| Butler Tech and Career Development Schools | Butler | $61,335 |
| Columbiana County Educational Service Center | Columbiana | $88,110 |
| Village of West Lafayette | Coshocton | $98,335 |
| Bethel Tate Local Schools | Clermont | $116,630 |
| Felicity Franklin Local Schools | Clermont | $46,500 |
| Goshen Local Schools | Clermont | $61,500 |
| Sandusky City School District | Erie | $39,600 |
| Fairfield Union Local Schools | Fairfield | $27,750 |
| Lancaster City Schools | Fairfield | $37,000 |
| City of Grove City Division of Police | Franklin | $49,375 |
| Educational Service Center of Central Ohio | Franklin | $168,000 |
| South-Western City Schools | Franklin | $23,500 |
| Whitehall Division of Police | Franklin | $25,970 |
| Greene County Public Health | Greene | $15,600 |
| Ohio Valley Educational Service Center\* | Guernsey, Noble, Washington, Monroe, Franklin & Perry | $37,000 |
| Cincinnati Police Department | Hamilton | $56,160 |
| Knox Public Health\* | Knox | $142,000 |
| Educational Service Center of the Western Reserve | Lake, Geauga & Portage | $53,760 |
| Toledo Public Schools\* | Lucas | $133,500 |
| Washington Local Schools | Lucas | $111,250 |
| Marion City Schools | Marion | $37,600 |
| Madison-Champaign Educational Service Center\* | Madison & Champaign | $66,755 |
| Boardman Township Police Department | Mahoning | $147,885 |
| Educational Service Center of Eastern Ohio\* | Mahoning, Trumbull & Columbiana | $227,200 |
| Mercer County Educational Service Center\* | Mercer | $24,750 |
| Kettering City Schools | Montgomery | $12,600 |
| Muskingum Valley ESC | Muskingum, Hardin, Crawford, Fairfield, Fulton, Logan & Richland | $44,400 |
| Pickaway County General Health District | Pickaway & Ross | $61,560 |
| Mansfield Sr. High School | Richland | $46,350 |
| Pickaway- Ross Joint Vocational School | Ross | $72,280 |
| Stark County Educational Service Center | Stark & Carroll | $98,750 |
| Akron Public Schools\* | Summit | $134,000 |
| East Central Ohio Educational Service Center | Tuscarawas, Belmont, Carroll & Stark | $64,750 |
| Warren County Family and Children First Council | Warren & Montgomery | $33,450 |

\**Previous “Drive to Succeed” grant recipient*

“We know about half of Ohio teens obtain their driver’s license before they turn 18 which means they completed the mandatory requirements for licensure under Ohio law,” said Andy Wilson, Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. “But the other half who wait to get licensed are more likely to be involved in a crash in the first year they have a license. This is proof that driver training makes a difference.”

“Driver training plays a crucial role in setting teens up for a successful future,” said Emily Davidson, OTSO Director. “By distributing these funds to local jurisdictions, we can address the specific localized needs and resources of the community.”

This announcement follows a number of traffic safety initiatives for young drivers announced by The Ohio Traffic Safety Office, including over $4.5 million in funding through the new [Creating Opportunities for Driver Education (CODE) Grant](https://otso.ohio.gov/home/news-and-events/all-news/governor-dewine-announces-four-point-five-million-in-grants-to-increase-driver-training-options-for-teens) program that supports the expansion of driver training options in underserved areas.

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*As a division within the Ohio Department of Public Safety, the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) is dedicated to saving lives and preventing injuries on Ohio’s roads by using creative leadership, innovative education and comprehensive enforcement programs. OTSO strives to work in partnership with local, state and federal entities to advance equity in highway safety programs, ensuring they benefit all road users in Ohio. For FFY2024, OTSO awarded over $23 million in federal funds to 135 Ohio agencies for statewide programming to improve traffic safety and reduce traffic-related fatalities.*