



ASHTABULA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CEAAC Task Force awarded \$73,000 grant

JEFFERSON – The Crime Enforcement Agency of Ashtabula County task force has been awarded a \$73,000 grant through Governor Mike DeWine's RecoveryOhio Law Enforcement Fund grant program.

CEAAC was one of 27 existing drug task forces in the state to receive a total of \$2 million through the program, which was established to provide task forces with additional resources to help intercept illegal drugs. The program also focuses on promoting substances use awareness, prevention, and recovery efforts.

The grant will fund a Community Outreach Program that will focus on providing substance use and mental health education to the community, including schools. The funds will offset personnel costs for a Community Outreach Coordinator as well as an investigator who will focus on investigating overdoses and drug dealers involved in the deaths of drug users.

"This money will go a long way in helping us accomplish our goals," said Det. Greg Leonhard, CEAAC Commander. "Without these grants CEAAC wouldn't be able to function. I want to thank the Office of Criminal Justice Services for their continued to support."

Stacy Millberg, of the Ashtabula County Sheriff's Office, will assume the role of Community Outreach Coordinator and work with community partners to develop training opportunities and educational programs that promote effective strategies to reduce the prevalence of mental illness and substance use. Millberg also serves as the agency's Public Information Officer and grant writer.

“Applying for these grants is a team effort,” said Sheriff William Niemi. “The hard work put in by our employees pays off and helps us work toward becoming a safer community. Being grant aggressive shows financial responsibility and provides a cost savings to the taxpayers.”

This is the second year CEAAC has been awarded RecoveryOhio funds; however, last year’s funds were unable to be used as the program being funded was canceled due to COVID. The RecoveryOhio grant marks the third, and largest, grant CEAAC has received this year. These grant funds help offset operational and personnel costs, which reduces the financial burden of the taxpayers as well as of the participating agencies.

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