

Investing in Recovery

Ohio's mental health and addiction crisis impacts every county, every city, town and village – urban and rural. Governor Mike DeWine's executive budget reflects his commitment to helping those with mental health and substance use disorders. His proposal also reflects his dedication to assisting local schools, law enforcement, businesses, and other agencies that are also facing the consequences of this public health crisis.

Immediately after taking the oath of office, Governor DeWine signed an executive order creating the RecoveryOhio Advisory Council to advise the administration on critical matters concerning mental illness and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. The council's initial report includes recommendations to better assist those who are struggling to recover and to help them lead high-quality, productive lives.

Governor DeWine's executive budget for fiscal years 2020-2021 supports this priority by proposing an appropriation to invest more than \$200 million in new funds across several agencies.

Some examples of these initiatives include:

Investing \$20 million to provide Ohio's schools with free, evidence-based prevention curricula and professional development for school personnel. Ohio's local Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Boards, in partnership with their local school districts, will receive \$18 million in fiscal year 2020 to purchase evidence-based prevention curricula that provides students with the social and emotional skills they need to make healthy decisions throughout their lives. An additional \$2 million will be provided to Ohio's Educational Service Centers over the biennium to conduct professional development for teachers on prevention education.

Investing \$12 million to expand the Ohio START (Sobriety, Treatment and Reducing Trauma) program, which Governor DeWine started while serving as Attorney General. The program helps local governments offer concentrated, critical services to parents struggling with substance use disorder. Support is also provided to children who are traumatized due to parental addiction.

Increasing treatment capacity in Ohio through an investment of more than \$56 million to respond to local needs. Governor DeWine believes individuals who need treatment should have access to the help. As part of this investment, Governor DeWine is directing more than \$22 million to local Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Boards so communities can provide crisis response efforts to families.

Investing an additional \$5 million to create at least 30 more specialized courts during the biennium. Governor DeWine supports specialty dockets because they give judges the flexibility to order defendants to treatment rather than sentencing them to jail. These programs are a proven way to hold those with mental health and substance use disorders accountable and ensure participation in effective treatment.

Investing \$3.9 million to create the Narcotics Intelligence Center (NIC) consisting of intelligence analysts and computer forensic specialists who will be available for law enforcement agencies across Ohio. The NIC will help stabilize intelligence sharing and bring high-tech analytical capabilities that will strengthen criminal investigations and improve public safety.

Investing in effective drug task force models through increased funding for the continued operation of existing local drug task forces. Governor DeWine wants to empower local drug task forces with more resources to investigate drug traffickers and take deadly drugs off the streets. Spending for existing drug task forces will increase from \$8 million per year to \$13.9 million in 2020 and 2021 to help local authorities intensify their efforts to combat Ohio's drug epidemic.

Governor DeWine's priority to hold drug traffickers accountable also includes the creation of three new Cartel Trafficking Route Interdiction task forces. The new task forces, made up of local, state, and federal authorities, will disrupt the flow of money and drugs from cartels by arresting traffickers and intercepting methamphetamine, fentanyl and other illegal narcotics coming into and out of Ohio.

Investing \$8 million in a new public awareness education campaign to help reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders and equip Ohioans with skills needed to implement healthy prevention and intervention approaches in their own homes and personal relationships.

