



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

Nov. 19, 2015

>>> OhioMHAS Announces \$3M in SFY 2016 Criminal Justice Linkages Funding



Ohio is taking action to reduce the number of criminal offenders with untreated mental illness and/or substance use disorders who continually cycle through the criminal justice system. Today, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced \$3 million in grant awards to connect offenders with treatment in an effort to improve outcomes, reduce recidivism and relieve jail overcrowding. As part of its SFY 2016 "Criminal Justice-Behavioral Health

Linkages" grant initiative, OhioMHAS outlined plans to provide funding to support 23 projects benefitting 38 counties during a kickoff event at the Mahoning County Minimum Security Jail in Youngstown.

[Read the media release](#)

[View a map of SFY 2016 Grantees](#)

[Project overviews](#)

>>> New Year Will Usher in Significant Changes for Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program

The Residential State Supplement (RSS) Program will undergo significant improvements in the new year, impacting individual benefits, allowable fee rates and personal needs allowances. Beginning Jan. 1, 2016, operators may increase the monthly allowable fee up to \$1,100 for individual residents who receive RSS. Operators will continue to accept the allowable fee as payment in full for accommodations, supervision and personal care services. In addition, the personal needs allowance for individuals will increase to \$200. Individuals enrolled in RSS, home operators, representative payees and other key stakeholders will be receive a communication explaining the changes. As a result of these increases, OhioMHAS will also be reaching out individuals whose income was previously over eligibility limits. Updated information regarding RSS, including applications forms and instructions, can be found at www.mha.ohio.gov/RSS.

>>> Ohio's Strategies in Action for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) recently created a new Autism Certification Center and launched a groundbreaking online video training program for individuals who interact with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). The new program, called

ASD Strategies in Action, gives families and service providers tools to ensure they are equipped to effectively care for, support, educate, employ, or work with individuals on the autism spectrum from early childhood through young adulthood. *ASD Strategies in Action* provides practical information and skills, demonstrated with real-life examples, filmed in a variety of settings, available in a mobile-friendly format that is free to all Ohioans and available anywhere. The program was funded under the leadership of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities in collaboration with the Ohio Department of Education and the Governor's Office of Health Transformation.

[Learn more](#)

In the News

November 2015 | Six-part *Columbus Dispatch* special report on suicide -- : [Silent Suffering](#)

11.18.15 | *WTVG-TV* [Lucas County DART Team Saves Heroin Addict's Life](#)

11.17.15 | *Massillon Independent* [Deputy uses Narcan kit to revive suicidal heroin user](#)

11.13.15 | *The Atlantic* [A Newspaper Written Entirely by Mental-Health Patients](#)

11.11.15 | *Youth Today* [Prevention is Key](#)

11.11.15 | *Columbus Dispatch* [City to introduce needle-exchange program to combat heroin, infectious diseases](#)

11.10.15 | *Forbes* [DEA Maps Show Kingpin 'El Chapo' Guzman's Cartel Controls Nearly the Entire U.S. Drug Market](#)

11.10.15 | *WKEF-TV* [Communities Fighting Back Against Heroin Epidemic](#)

11.9.15 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [Studies laud Ohio's efforts to bolster independent living, reduce Medicaid costs](#)

11.9.15 | *WDTN-TV* [Dayton mom shares heroin road to recovery](#)

11.9.15 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Vivitrol: Athens County latest to try new tool to fight opiate addiction](#)

11.6.15 | *Toledo Blade (Editorial)* [Making OARRS easier to row](#)

11.6.15 | *Dayton Daily News* [Federal health officials visit Dayton to help combat drug deaths](#)

11.6.15 | *Stars and Stripes* [New private hospital network to help VA with mental health care for veterans](#)

11.6.15 | *NPR* [How do stereotypes of mental health affect us?](#)

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