



News Now

John R. Kasich, Governor
Tracy Plouck, Director

Jan. 25, 2016

>>> Ohio Awards \$9.1M to Strengthen Early Childhood Mental Health Services



In an effort to promote healthy social and emotional development and school readiness among children age six and younger, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced \$9.1 million in funding that will benefit 75 counties through the agency's "Whole Child Matters: Early Childhood Mental Health ([ECMH](#)) Initiative." The funding

calls for the addition of up to 64 mental health consultants who will work with teachers, staff and families of at-risk children in preschools and other early learning settings. Plans also include establishing a centralized intake process and providing for a small cadre of trainers who will oversee professional development services statewide.

[Read the media release](#)

[View map of grantees](#)

[SFY 2016-17 Table of Awards](#)

[Associated Press news coverage](#)

What Others are Saying:

"The need for early childhood mental health support rises as childhood poverty continues to increase. We know our families in poverty deal with many challenges that and result in children displaying behavioral issues and mental health concerns as they attend early childhood centers. Mental health consultants are needed to work with children and teachers and identify ways to help our children stay on track and develop to their full potential. If our children don't learn important skills like self-control and focus, and healthy ways of expressing emotion, children's cognitive gains are compromised. We are eager to have more mental health consultants in the Montgomery County region to support our youngest learners."

Robyn Lightcap

Director, ReadySetSoar, the early learning initiative in Montgomery County

"Early childhood and mental health professionals in Stark County have long been aware that the effects of trauma and stress on children can be devastating. The Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton has made a significant investment in high-quality programs and early intervention services for young children. Ohio's commitment to expand and improve early childhood mental health services is a major step forward in helping us to help families."

Joni Close

President, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton

In the News

- 1.26.16 | *The Ohio State University* [Why you should never use the term 'the mentally ill'](#)
- 1.26.16 | *CNN* [Doctors should screen pregnant women, new moms for depression](#)
- 1.25.16 | *WYTV* [Local superintendents learn about Ohio drug prevention program](#)
- 1.25.16 | *Forbes* [Four Technologies Innovating Mental Health in 2016](#)
- 1.25.16 | *Massillon Independent* [Purchase of Massillon State Hospital property OK'd](#)
- 1.24.16 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer (Guest Column)* [Kids less likely to abuse drugs if they talk with parents](#)
- 1.24.16 | *Springfield News-Sun* [Home for recovering drug addicts to open in Bellefontaine](#)
- 1.21.16 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Life-saving overdose drug given more than 12,000 times last year in Ohio](#)
- 1.21.16 | *Cincinnati Enquirer (Editorial)* [On heroin, our mercy required](#)
- 1.19.16 | *Cleveland Plain Dealer* [New Ohio guidelines on opioids for acute pain encourage alternative treatments, limited prescriptions](#)
- 1.19.16 | *WCPN 90.3* [Efforts to Reduce Cases of Pregnant Addicts, Drug-Dependent Newborns Continues](#)

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