



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
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>>> Governor DeWine Announces Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence, Increase MH Prevention, Treatment

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has announced a series of legislative reforms to address gun violence and outlined further action to increase mental health prevention, identification, and treatment to better protect Ohioans. “Gun violence doesn’t just take the form of mass shootings, people are victims every day in Ohio and across the country,” said Governor DeWine. “I believe that this is both a public safety issue and an individual wellness issue – we must address both sides to help solve the problem. It’s time to do something, and that is exactly what we are going to do.” This series of solid, workable reforms will help get guns out of the hands of people who should not have them under the law while protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens who are entitled to the right to bear arms and will help prevent and treat those struggling with mental illness.

Governor DeWine’s proposals include:

Safety Protection Orders. Governor DeWine is asking the legislature to pass a law to allow courts to issue Safety Protection Orders which would remove firearms from potentially dangerous individuals and get them the mental health treatment they need all while maintaining an individual’s right to due process.

Increased Access to Inpatient Psychiatric Care. Over the past several years, Ohio’s state psychiatric hospitals have become predominantly used by patients who are court-ordered there for restoration to competency to stand trial. This week 79% of the adults in our state psychiatric hospitals are under court order. The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is working to create a process where courts and community-based providers can work together to restore competency for those to stand trial in an outpatient setting which will free more hospital beds and decrease wait time for admission. The Ohio General Assembly will need to pass legislation to create this community-based misdemeanor competency restoration process.

Early Intervention. As part of the 2019-2020 biennium operating budget, the state is investing \$675 million in wrap-around services for schools to design individualized programs, working with local mental health providers or social service organizations, to address the social and emotional challenges our students face.

Access to Behavioral Health Services. The Ohio Department of Medicaid is investing \$15 million in telehealth mental health services to students, so no matter where a child lives, they have access to high-quality mental health care.

Risk Factor and Resource Identification. OhioMHAS will be working with communities to increase knowledge of risk factors, help parents identify when their child is showing warning signs of a mental illness. The department will share screening tools with clinicians and help connect community-based services to link parents, families, and schools with proven supports and strategies to manage a child’s wellness over the child’s lifetime.

Background Checks. Governor DeWine is calling on the Ohio General Assembly to pass a law requiring background checks for all firearms sales in the state of Ohio with certain limited, reasonable exceptions, including gifts between family members.

Increased Penalties for Felons Who Illegally Possess Firearms. Gun violence occurs in neighborhoods and communities every day across Ohio and the nation. Law enforcement reports that the majority of this violence is perpetrated by a relatively small number of individuals who don't have the right to possess a gun. Governor DeWine is calling on the General Assembly to increase penalties on felons who illegally possess or use guns.

Increased Penalties for Violent Felons Who Illegally Possess Firearms. Governor DeWine is calling on the General Assembly to increase penalties violent felons and other people found with a gun they do not have the legal right to possess. The crime of having a weapon while under a disability is currently a third-degree felony punishable by a maximum of three years in prison. On a first offense, the crime should be a second-degree felony punishable by two-to eight-years in prison, and for subsequent offenses, it should be a first-degree felony punishable by three- to eleven-years incarceration.

Increased Penalties for People Who Commit Felonies while in Possessing Firearms. This proposal would increase penalties for people who commit felonies with a firearm or who possess a firearm while committing a felony to a mandatory additional one- to three-year sentence.

Increased Penalties for Brandishing a Gun. The General Assembly should pass a law that increases the penalty for those who commit a felony while brandishing a firearm to a mandatory three- to five-year sentence.

Increased Penalties for Straw Purchases. So-called "straw" purchases, the act of purchasing guns for or giving guns to another individual are currently illegal under Ohio and federal law. However, this practice is far too common, so Governor DeWine is calling on the General Assembly to increase the penalty for a straw purchase to a second-degree felony punishable by two to eight years in prison.

Increased Penalties for Illegally Obtained Guns. We should increase the penalty for a person who possesses a firearm that they know was obtained through an illegal or fraudulent purchase in order to avoid a federal background check. A person who possesses the gun should be punished in the same manner as a person who bought the firearm, increasing the penalty to a second-degree felony punishable by two- to- eight years in prison.

Increased Penalties for Those Who Improperly Provide Firearms to Minors. Too many kids are carrying guns on the streets often with tragic consequences. Adults who furnish firearms to minors must be held accountable. Governor DeWine proposes that the General Assembly increase the penalty for improperly providing a firearm to a minor to and a third-degree felony punishable by up to three years in prison.

School Tip Line. The DeWine administration is expanding the state's school safety tip line, where kids and adults can call or text anonymously to **1.844.723.3764** with tips about potential school violence.

Social Media Monitoring. In a 24-7 world of social media, threats can arise at any time. The Hub at the Ohio Department of Public Safety is expanding their ability to monitor and track potential threats on social media and will share that information with local school and local law enforcement.

Community Safety. The operating budget provides nearly \$9 million to help harden soft targets like non-profits and religious organizations to make their facilities more secure.

School Safety and Intervention Programs. Working closely with Sandy Hook Promise, Ohio's schools are implementing their "Know the Signs" safety program across the state. This program equips school staff with knowledge and skills to identify potential threats of violent action and take steps to intervene. There are 23 training dates already scheduled.

"I believe these proposals fulfill three important requirements. They can pass the legislature, they make meaningful progress toward safer communities, and they are Constitutional. Passing them won't be easy, but this is the right thing to do and this is the right time to do it," Governor DeWine added. "We can pull together to do meaningful things to protect lives. It won't be easy, but I believe in this state, and I believe in our people."

Click [HERE](#) to read Governor DeWine's prepared remarks.

Click [HERE](#) for details on Governor DeWine's proposals.

NEW OhioMHAS has launched a new "After a Disaster" web page (<https://mha.ohio.gov/Families-Children-and-Adults/Family-Supports/After-a-Disaster>) that pools together helpful resources for communities and individuals experiencing emotional distress related to natural or human-caused disasters. Please bookmark and share this resource widely.

>>> RFP: FY2020-21 Youth Treatment Implementation (YT-I) Cooperative Agreement/Grant

OhioMHAS is [seeking proposals](#) from local alcohol drug addiction and mental health boards (ADAMHS boards) partnering with provider(s) and from OhioMHAS-certified or licensed providers partnering with ADAMHS board(s) to establish or enhance treatment models of care that focus on a continuum of treatment options and supports for youth and young adults with substance use disorders (SUDs) and/or co-occurring substance-use and mental health disorders ages 12-25 and their families/primary caregivers. Proposals will be accepted from ADAMHS boards collaborating with provider organizations or provider organizations collaborating with ADAMHS boards regarding services for the population of focus in multiple counties, at least one of which is a rural and/or Appalachian county. This funding opportunity aims to enhance continuum of care options through local, community-driven systems of care. All proposals must meet the guidelines and requirements of this RFP for funding in state fiscal year 2020 and/or 2021. Proposals must be submitted to BCYFgrants@mha.ohio.gov by **5 p.m. on Aug. 23**. All questions should be submitted no later than 4 p.m. Aug. 16 to BCYFgrants@mha.ohio.gov.

[View RFP](#)

[2019 OhioMHAS Assurances](#)

[Combined Budget Narrative and Expenditures Grant Budget Form](#)

[Grant Application Face Sheet](#)

>>> Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (FORE) Seeks Proposals

The Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts ([FORE](#)) has released a Request for Proposals focused on improving access to appropriate opioid use disorder treatment and services for underserved and vulnerable populations. The Foundation held a [webinar](#) introducing FORE and answering questions regarding the RFP on Aug. 1. The [slide deck](#) and [FAQ](#) are available for download. Click [HERE](#) to download RFP documents. **The deadline to submit a letter of intent is Aug. 25.**

In the News

8.6.19 | *The Wall Street Journal* [Ohio Governor Proposes Gun Reform Package](#)

8.6.19 | *Delaware Gazette* [Suicide Prevention Walk is Sept. 7](#)

8.6.19 | *WSYX-TV* [Access to mental health treatment priority for Governor DeWine](#)

8.6.19 | *NPR* [Mass shootings can be contagious, research shows](#)

8.5.19 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Ohio Gov. DeWine just rolled out a plan to combat gun violence. Here's what's in it.](#)

8.1.19 | *Dayton Daily News* [Why this rally promotes recovery 'out loud'](#)

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