



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director

October 16, 2019

>>> STRONG Ohio Safety and Security Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced today that Ohio is now offering millions in grant funding to enhance safety and security at religious institutions, chartered nonpublic schools, licensed preschools, and nonprofit organizations. The \$8.5 million in grants are being offered as part of Governor DeWine's STRONG Ohio violence prevention plan and are funded through Ohio's 2020-2021 operating budget. These funds will help cover the cost of physical security upgrades, personnel, and emergency communication equipment. The grants will be provided through Ohio Homeland Security and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency. Both agencies are divisions of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. **The deadline to apply for the funding is Nov. 29.** Click [HERE](#) for more information.



>>> Ohio "Tobacco 21" Law Takes Effect Oct. 17 – Age to Purchase Tobacco, Vaping Products Now 21

Ohio's new "Tobacco 21" law **takes effect on Thursday, Oct. 17**, raising the age to purchase cigarettes, other tobacco products, and alternative nicotine products such as e-cigarettes and vaping products from 18 to 21. It will also become

TOBACCO AGE OF SALE

ONLY 21+

It's the
LAW

illegal to give such products to others under age 21. The types of tobacco and alternative nicotine products covered by the new law include cigarettes; electronic smoking devices such as vapes, e-cigarettes, and tanks; cigars; pipe tobacco; chewing tobacco; snuff; snus; dissolvable nicotine products; filters, rolling papers, pipes, blunts, or hemp wraps; liquids used in electronic smoking

devices whether or not they contain nicotine; and vapor products – any component, part, or additive that is intended for use in an electronic smoking device, a mechanical heating element, battery, or electronic circuit and is used to deliver the product. Tobacco products and alternative nicotine products do not include products such as nicotine replacement therapy for use when quitting tobacco and other nicotine products.

The law requires retailers to post a sign indicating that it is illegal to sell tobacco and alternative nicotine products to anyone under the age of 21. A clerk who sells tobacco and alternative nicotine products to a person under 21 and the owner of the retail establishment may face criminal penalties that increase after the first violation under Ohio's Tobacco 21 law. For a first offense, a misdemeanor of the fourth degree, a clerk is subject to no more than 30 days in jail and a fine up to \$250, and the retail establishment is subject to a fine of \$2,000.

For more information about Ohio's Tobacco 21 law, go to OhioTobacco21.gov or call the toll-free hotline at **1.855.OHIO.T21 (1.855.644.6821)**. The Ohio Department of Health's **Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 1.800.QUIT.NOW** offers free resources, including non-judgmental quit coaches for quitting tobacco and vaping products.

In the News

10.16.19 | *WKBN-TV* [Feds say today's cocaine likely contaminated with fentanyl](#)

10.15.19 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Ohio's push against vape products and smokes ratchets up Thursday as new law takes effect](#)

10.15.19 | *WTVG-TV* [Suicide documentary – A Cry for Help: The Ajane' Burt Story](#)

10.15.19 | *ABC News* [Local businesses work together to combat Ohio's growing opioid crisis](#)

10.15.19 | *Crain's Cleveland Business* [University of Akron is the co-lead on a project to help families affected by opioid abuse](#)

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