



News Now

Mike DeWine, *Governor*
Lori Criss, *Director*



July 31, 2020

>>> Ohio Earns National Recognition for Responsible Gambling Initiatives

Ohio for Responsible Gambling ([ORG](#)) received top honors at the [2020 National Conference on Gambling Addiction & Responsible Gambling Awards Ceremony](#), held virtually on July 24. Competing against other statewide gambling prevention programs across the country, Ohio was honored in three major award categories, winning the following:



— IF YOU GAMBLE —
**GET SET
BEFORE
YOU BET**

- **Corporate Public Awareness Award** for *Change the Game Ohio*, a youth gambling prevention campaign providing information and tools to parents, educators, and youth.
- **Corporate Website Award** for [ChangeTheGameOhio.org](#), which features educational resources, a youth gambling awareness quiz, and a community toolkit with videos, posters, materials, and other educational tools for adults to use to help spread the message about youth gambling prevention.
- **Media Award** for *Get Set Before You Bet*, the main responsible gambling initiative of the state that helps at-risk populations connect to the support and resources they need. This award recognized the campaign for its placement of earned media, which created an opportunity for ORG to be featured in an interview on one of Columbus' top news networks, NBC4. In an interview on the *Daytime Columbus* program, ORG discussed the prevalence of problem gambling within the veteran population on the week of Veteran's Day. See the story [HERE](#).

>>> Minority Mental Health Resources

Minority Mental Health Month 2020 is drawing to a close, but the substantial mental health and addiction needs in minority communities continue to be a top priority of OhioMHAS. To learn more about efforts to reduce stigma in and improve engagement in behavioral health services with minority communities, please read this recently released [literature review](#) from the OhioMHAS Quality, Planning, and Research office. Click [HERE](#) for more tips and strategies on outreach and service provision in minority communities.



>>> CARES Act Provider Relief Fund: For Providers

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has established a hub for information related to the CARES Act Provider Relief Funding for Providers. Click [HERE](#) to find the appropriate portal to sign an attestation, accept or return the funds, agree to Terms and Conditions, submit revenue information, and request reimbursement.

>>> Survey Sheds Light on Stressed Behavioral Health Treatment System in Midst of COVID-19 Pandemic

The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health and Family Services Providers (The Ohio Council) recently conducted a membership survey to gain insight into the impact that COVID-19 is having on Ohio's mental health and addiction treatment providers and system. The Ohio Council finalized the analysis in this report: [COVID-19 BH Provider Impact Survey](#). The report describes the impact of COVID-19 on a range of topics, including service access and capacity, workforce, and business operations. The Ohio Council conducted the survey from July 14-17, receiving responses from 74 provider organizations offering a diverse and representative sample of the behavioral health provider experience. The report documents the swift transition and significant increase in use of telehealth services to sustain access to mental health and

addiction treatment during the pandemic. However, the report indicates an overall revenue decrease of more than 20 percent for most behavioral health provider organizations in this mostly telehealth environment. Other key highlights from the survey report include:

- 69 percent of behavioral health organizations report that most of their services continue to be provided via telehealth. Nearly 60 percent of organizations report they plan to continue providing as many services through telehealth as possible.
- 95 percent of organizations reported a decrease in weekly revenue and many organizations (58 percent) indicate a decrease in weekly revenue of 21 percent or more.
- Providers have successfully accessed emergency federal coronavirus funds to temporarily sustain service access, workforce, and operations.
 - 78 percent of organizations responding to this survey received forgivable loans through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). However, 15 percent of organizations were ineligible to even apply for the PPP due to organizational size.
 - 73 percent of organizations reported receipt of HHS Provider Relief Funds at the time of the survey. 18 percent were in the process of applying for the Targeted Medicaid distribution
- 38 organization reported furloughing or laying off 915 FTEs due to the pandemic. However, access to the federal PPP loans have enabled organizations to re-hire 324.25 FTEs or 35 percent of those furloughed/laid off.
- While access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has improved, providers continue to experience challenges in obtaining disinfecting/antibacterial cleaning wipes, disinfecting cleaning sprays and products, and hand sanitizer.

>>> Ohio Announces \$3.2 Million in Family Violence Prevention & Services Act Grants



Ohio Governor Mike DeWine announced this week that nearly six dozen local victim service projects have been awarded a total of \$3.2 million to safely support victims of crime. A total of 66 projects will be funded by grants through the Family Violence Prevention & Services Act (FVPSA) grants program. The purpose of the federal FVPSA Program is to support the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of programs and projects to:

- prevent incidents of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence;
- provide immediate shelter, supportive services, and access to community-based programs for victims of family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, and their dependents; and
- provide specialized services for children exposed to family violence, domestic violence, or dating violence, underserved populations, and victims who are members of racial and ethnic minority populations.

The funding will be administered by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Click [HERE](#) for more information, including the list of subgrantees.

>>> NIMH Release New Strategic Plan for Research

The National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH) recently released its new [Strategic Plan for Research](#) to advance its mission and guide the Institute's research goals and priorities over the next five years. In this Strategic Plan for Research, NIMH outlines four high-level Goals as follows:



- [Goal 1: Define the Brain Mechanisms Underlying Complex Behaviors](#)
- [Goal 2: Examine Mental Illness Trajectories Across the Lifespan](#)
- [Goal 3: Strive for Prevention and Cures](#)
- [Goal 4: Strengthen the Public Health Impact of NIMH-Supported Research](#)

>>> Ohio Medicaid Seeks Proposals for Single Pharmacy Benefit Manager

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) recently released a [request for proposal](#) to move the agency's managed care program to a single pharmacy benefit manager (SPBM). Once implemented, Medicaid's pharmacy benefits strategy will ease provider administrative burdens, reduce operational costs and strengthen the state's fiscal oversight of this vital health care benefit. Currently, each of Ohio Medicaid's six managed care organizations (MCOs) contracts with one or more pharmacy benefit managers (PBM) to manage prescription drug benefits. As a result, health care providers are subject to meeting unique, time-consuming processes required by each MCO to prescribe important, and sometimes life-sustaining, medications. ODM Director Maureen Corcoran called the move to a single pharmacy benefit manager,

“Another important step in providing quality care for our members, transparency in operations, and responsible stewardship of Ohio taxpayer dollars.” Click [HERE](#) to read the full media release.

>>> Virtual Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Training for Physicians & Nurses – Oct. 6

The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Coalition, in partnership with Zero Suicide Institute, will host a virtual Assessing & Managing Suicide Risk (AMSR) training for physicians and nurses on Oct. 6. This evidence-based suicide prevention training will provide 6.5 AMA CME credits. The Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County is sponsoring the training, which will be led by AMSR Master Trainer Dr. Josephine Ridley. Click [HERE](#) to for more information and to register.



For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov. COVID Careline 1-800-720-9616. Click [HERE](#) for a list of pop-up COVID-19 Testing Sites.

In the News

- 7.31.20 | *WTTE-TV* [Good Day Columbus: OhioMHAS](#)
- 7.31.20 | *USA Today* [Kids' mental health can struggle during online school. Here's how teachers are planning ahead.](#)
- 7.30.20 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Pandemic side effect: Domestic violence spikes, grows more deadly](#)
- 7.30.20 | *Lorain Morning Journal* [Speaking Your Language: Health Journeys launches Spanish guided meditation series](#)
- 7.30.20 | *Cincinnati Enquirer* [Overdose alert issued as ER admissions tick up; COVID-19 causing fluctuations, officials say](#)
- 7.30.20 | *CNN* [Kanye West's mental health battle is a wake-up call for empathy](#)
- 7.29.20 | *WKBN-TV* [Local addiction treatment center seeing more patients ask for help with substance abuse](#)
- 7.29.20 | *Port Clinton News-Herald* [Oak House to offer addiction recovery services](#)
- 7.29.20 | *Weirton Daily Times* [Series topic to be 'The Role of Mental Illness in Addiction'](#)
- 7.29.20 | *Columbus CEO* [How health care organizations can take care of employees right now](#)
- 7.29.20 | *WDTN-TV* [24-hour hotline available as Dayton approaches one year since Oregon District shooting](#)
- 7.29.20 | *WEWS-TV* [Remote learning has decreased cyberbullying, but offers more opportunities for online predators to target children](#)
- 7.28.20 | *Bowling Green Sentinel-Tribune* [NAMI Wood County receives \\$25,000 grant](#)
- 7.27.20 | *MedPage Today* [Pandemic takes toll on family mental health](#)
- 7.27.20 | *WDTN-TV* [Professionals say going outdoors can help mental health during pandemic](#)



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