

OHIO GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE'S OFFICE OF



# FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

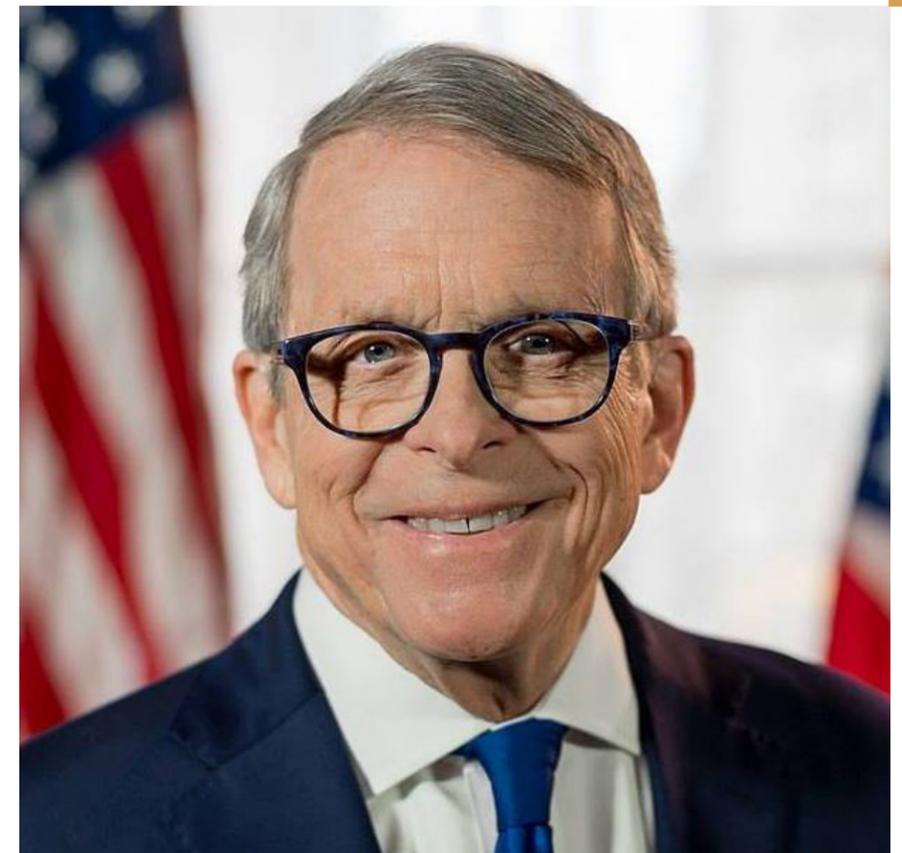
"You are making a difference every single day."

– Governor Mike DeWine

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## FROM GOVERNOR DEWINE



### Dear Fellow Ohioans,

After taking office in 2019, I charged the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) to help faith-based and community organizations access the necessary resources to assist all Ohioans in need. I am pleased to share with you this annual report, which details the activities and accomplishments of GOFBCI.

The Director of GOFBCI, Dr. Michele Reynolds, and her staff focus their energies on how my administration can work with Ohio’s faith and community leaders to build public-private partnerships and to support efforts to improve the well-being of all Ohioans.

Through a multi-faceted approach, I am proud to report, that in 2019, GOFBCI:

- held seven Faith-Based Regional Tours
- hosted eight Roundtable Discussions
- collaborated with state agencies and community organizations to expand their outreach
- provided \$13,285,000 in grants to faith-based and community organizations

Moving forward, I am confident that GOFBCI will continue to build upon this successful foundation to create a stronger, better Ohio for all.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine



## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

### Director Michele Reynolds

### A year in review

As the Director of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI), I have the privilege of leading Ohio's compassion efforts for the administration. If I could sum up the year in one word, it would be RELATIONSHIPS. From the first day we took office in January 2019, GOFBCI has focused on building public-private partnerships and leveraging those relationships to create a network of compassion throughout Ohio. Connecting with Ohio's faith-based and nonprofit leaders helped us to reach deeper into communities to make a positive impact. One can never underestimate

the impact of a small group of people who come together around faith and stewardship for community. This annual report reflects the spirit of collaboration, compassion, and transformation that thrives here in the great State of Ohio. Together, we are changing lives, inspiring hope, and building relationships. As we move forward, we endeavor to build more strategic partnerships and add value by implementing training and technical assistance to support Ohio charitable organizations representing the faith-based and non-profit community.



## GOFBCI STAFF

*(From left to right) Tia Ramey (Deputy Director), Felicia King (Northeast Ohio Faith-Based/Minority Outreach Liaison), Ronald C. Todd II (Minority Affairs Liaison), Andrea Dingess (Recovery/Faith-Based Liaison,) Kelley Williams (Faith-Based Liaison)*

**With help from our committed team members, we had a successful year of relationship building.**

## ADVISORY BOARD

**Sister Jeanne M. Bessette**  
**Rabbi Avraham Louis Goldstein**  
**Bishop Larry Macon Sr.**  
**Mr. Chip Weiant**  
**Rep. Tim Ginter - Chair**  
**Sen. Terry Johnson**  
**Bob Burney**

# LEADING

Ohio Revised Code 107.12 establishes the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives within the office of Governor. There are 4 requirements of the GOFBCI according to ORC 107.12:

- I. Serve as a clearinghouse of information on federal, state, and local funding for charitable services performed by organizations.
- II. Encourage organizations to seek public funding for their charitable services.
- III. Assist local, state, and federal agencies in coordinating their activities to secure maximum use of funds and efforts that benefit people receiving charitable services from organizations.
- IV. Advise the governor, general assembly, and the advisory board of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives on the barriers that exist to collaboration between organizations and governmental entities and on ways to remove the barriers.

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives serves the state of Ohio with 4 strategic goals:

**Expand our Network** — Build a state-wide network of compassion in Ohio among the faith-based and nonprofit sector that serves as a safety net for Ohioans in need.

**Granting / Impact Investing** — Strengthen the skills and competencies of faith-based and non profit organizations in Ohio to become fortified and locally sustainable.

**Build Capacity** — Fund selected faith-based and non profit organizations that offer transformative life altering programs and services for Ohioans in temporary need.

**Showcase Compassion** — Celebrate and showcase thriving faith-based and nonprofit organizations championing local solutions and share their methods generously.



# 01

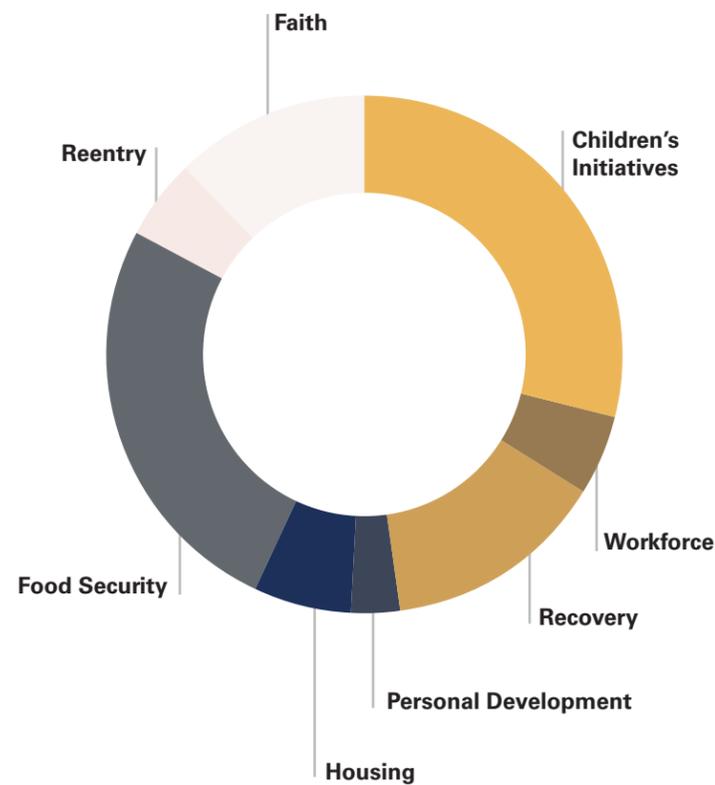
The vision of Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is to build a strong network of compassion in Ohio among the faith-based and nonprofit sector that serves as a safety net for Ohioans in need.



**The fiscal year (FY) 2020 Budget (H.B. 166, 133rd General Assembly, section 307.70) set aside \$13.285 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.**

With these funds, 70 grants were awarded to charitable organizations in Ohio that support children and families. Our grant programs, listed as follows, support Governor DeWine’s priority initiatives and compassion efforts.

# 02



*First Lady Fran DeWine assisting with distributing Operation Warm coats to Ohio children.*

## INVESTING

### I. Sustainability Grants - \$5 million

Funding to sustain existing grant recipients from the previous administration.

### II. Governor’s Grants- \$7 million

Funding to support new projects addressing the governor’s policy priorities for children and recovery initiatives.

### III. Capacity Building Grants- \$1 million

Funding to support capacity building and social innovation projects in seven areas: housing, reentry, food security, workforce development, personal

development, children’s initiatives, and recovery initiatives.

### IV. In-Kind Van Grants

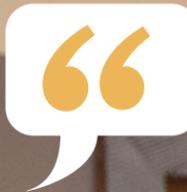
A partnership with the Ohio Department of Administrative Services State Fleet Division to donate decommissioned vans to qualified local government and/or non-profit organizations to further their charitable mission.

### V. Coats for Kids- Qty: \$300,000 for coats and shoes

Funding to support the purchase of coats and shoes for Ohio children in need.

## 2019 GRANTS: \$13,285,000





“Open table paves a pathway for those who want to give back in a different way. It offers a mentorship to those in need by shifting transactional giving to relational giving. Transactional is short-term whereas relationship is for a lifetime.”

Mrs. Tina Husted



# 03

## AT THE TABLE WITH TINA HUSTED

Jon Katov Founder and CEO of (OpenTable Ministries), Mrs. Tina Husted (OpenTable Ministries), and Ron Todd (Governor's Office Minority Affairs Liaison)



## INVITING

**GOFBCI facilitated collaborative meetings and networking opportunities around the state with 15 events.**

*GOFBCI conducted 7 Faith-Based Regional Tours around the state to present their resources and educate community leaders about non-profit management best practices.*

The success of our outreach efforts had the support of many partners including pastors that were willing to lend their churches to host Faith-Based Tours. The tours had an average of 200-300 attendees and our hosts were more than willing to share their staff members and their facilities to welcome community leaders to learn about GOFBCI.

Special Thank You To The Hosts of our Faith-Based Tours.

- Northern Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – The The Word Church (Cuyahoga)
- NW Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – Cornerstone Church (Maumee)
- SE Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – New Beginnings Outreach Ministries (Beaver)
- Western Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – Phillips Temple Church (Montgomery)

- Central Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – Northgate Church (Delaware)
- NE Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – Faith Family Church (Stark)
- Columbus Ohio Faith-Based Tour** – Riverside United Methodist Church (Franklin)

GOFBCI also engaged public officials across Ohio during the Faith-Based Regional Tours. These officials provided insights on how to work with state and local government to resolve issues and develop solutions.

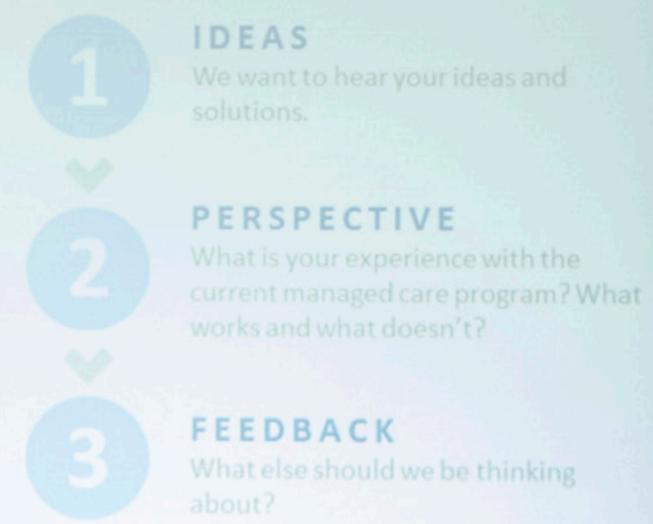
Additionally, a panel of subject matter experts shared best practices and offered information from multiple perspectives on how to access public funds and partner effectively with government.



# Want to Hear From the Individuals We Serve

We are doing things differently.

- Engaging stakeholders early in the process
- Listening to individuals and providers first
- Providing many ways for stakeholders to share input



Available PDF form is available at [medicaid.ohio.gov/procurement](https://medicaid.ohio.gov/procurement)  
 Email us at [MCPurchase@medicaid.ohio.gov](mailto:MCPurchase@medicaid.ohio.gov)



*James Tassie, Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid, presenting opportunities to work together to add value to faith-based and nonprofit groups in Ohio at Faith Fridays.*

## PARTNERING

**Recognizing the importance of working together, the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) developed partnerships with state agencies and departments, public officials, and subject matter experts to increase interaction with faith-based and community organizations. This resulted in their participation at 15 GOFBCI regional and roundtable meetings which educated attendees about agency resources, community concerns and opportunities for collaboration.**

The success of our outreach initiatives had the support of many partners including the faith leaders who hosted the Faith-Based Tours.

Public official, agency, and subject matter expert participation included:

- Ohio Attorney General
- Ohio Commission on Fatherhood
- Ohio Department of Medicaid
- Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
- RecoveryOhio
- Rotary District 6690
- Serve Ohio
- Children’s Hunger Alliance
- Citizens for Community Values
- Governor’s Office of Children’s Initiatives
- Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

# LISTENING

**We hosted 8 round table discussions and invited groups from across the state to talk to us about their challenges.**

The mission of the Governor’s Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) is to promote solutions, including those from faith-based partners, to community needs and support the development of community collaborative efforts to improve the wellbeing of all Ohioans. As the Governor’s liaison to the faith community and non-profit sector in Ohio, we launched a determined effort to address society’s most challenging social problems through the care and compassion offered by thousands of faith-based and grassroots organizations.

To that end, GOFBCI serves as a clearinghouse and mechanism for the Governor to engage and communicate with faith-based and nonprofit organizations, ensuring that local institutions, which hold community trust, have up- to- date information on charitable services and resources.

As a part of GOFBCI’s strategic plan, Faith Fridays roundtable meetings were developed as a platform to listen to what community stakeholders had to say. We hosted eight monthly roundtable discussions from April to November 2019. These roundtable meetings enabled faith-based and non-profit leaders around the state to share their experiences with the Governor’s Office and each other.

*“Those that are closest to the problem are closest to the solution.”*  
– Dir. Michele Reynolds



# 05

**What simple solutions do you find to be barriers amongst willing families that need help/support?**

- 53% Transportation
- 28% Mentorship/Education
- 19% Employment/Workforce Development

**What is the greatest need that drives major issues in your community?**

- 55% Poverty
- 14% Addiction
- 14% Mentorship

**What kind of support do you most need from the GOFBCI?**

- 59% Funding
- 12% Human Capital
- 12% Outreach



Senator Stephanie Kunze and Representative Rick Carfagna join GOFBCI as panelists on the Columbus Faith-Based Regional Tour.

# REPRESENTING

**Leaders throughout the state of Ohio came together through GOFBCI to support the Governor's vision to help nonprofit organizations and faith-based groups to expand their capacity.**



# 06

The Governor's Evangelical Advisory Council with Governor DeWine, First Lady Fran DeWine, Dr. Michele Reynolds and Ron Todd from the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

GOFBCI had the pleasure of coordinating meetings and events that would allow representatives from several counties to meet with the Governor and advise him on issues and policies that are impacting their communities. Faith-Based Leaders such as the Governor's Evangelical Advisory Council and the Ohio Christian Alliance have done a wonderful job of representing their communities to the Governor and his staff.

In addition, our Faith-Based Regional Tours has provided opportunities for local government to connect with their districts and provide insights on how to work with nonprofit and faith-based leaders to coordinate efforts to address issues of concern.

On the Faith-Based Regional Tour, a panel of experts represented their organizations and districts by offering their expertise from multiple perspectives on how to access public funds, to the managing of public funds as well as business best practices. GOFBCI collaborated with the Governor's district representatives and leaned on the strength of their relationships with the local community to build the best panel from one tour to the next in order to ensure that each tour provided region-specific information, connections, and resources.

# BUILDING

## Non-profit leaders and subject matter experts provided best practices advice to our meeting participants.

*This year was about building capacity. We brought people together and shared resources on what this offer has to offer. It was done by providing informational resources for faith-based, non-profit and community organizations to build their capacity in order to provide effective services, improve performance and increase sustainability.*

The Governor's office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) facilitates both "in reach" and "outreach" activities to engage the faith-based and nonprofit community.

GOFBCI collaborated with the Governor's district representatives and leaned on the strength of their relationships with the local community to build the best panel from one tour to the next in order to ensure that each tour provided region-specific information, connections, and resources.

Our strategic plan involved hosting eight monthly roundtable meetings held at the Governor's Office to provide information about our office and the opportunity for us to listen to what faith-based groups have and what they need to foster better collaboration with public sector organizations.

With a focused effort on capacity building and strengthening faith-based and non-profit organizations, GOFBCI brought in subject matter experts to share information and resources on how to provide effective services, improve performance and increase sustainability.

In addition, GOFBCI allocated \$1 million in capacity building grants up to \$25,000 per agency to address community initiatives in the following areas:

- Housing
- Reentry
- Workforce Development
- Food Security
- Personal Development
- Recovery
- Children's Initiatives



# 07



### Testimonials

What are people saying about their experiences at our Faith Friday events and our Faith-Based Regional Tours?

*"Great information to share with our local stakeholders!"*

-Jamie B.

*"Glad I came. I learned a whole lot."*

-Eli W.

*"The Panel was excellent in expertise and giving information on how it all works."*

-Blake E.

*"Great information! This tour was great! I will be able to take this back and make it applicable."*

-Traci F

*"Everything was just perfect!"*

-Cheryl L.

*"We are new to all of this information. I was excited to learn and start my growth as a non-profit. The need for this is very great."*

-Erin M.

# 08

## BELIEVING

Exploring ways to utilize diverse faiths as a unifying force to bring Ohio leaders together.



*Lighting of the Menorah event at the Governor's Residence in Bexley, OH.*



*Lt. Governor Husted opening in prayer with Ohio Legislators and Cabinet Directors at their monthly Shared Values in Faith meeting at the Ohio Statehouse.*

In 2019, the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GOFBCI) had the honor of interacting with people from diverse faiths throughout the State of Ohio.

GOFBCI had the honor of hosting special meetings with Governor Mike DeWine for several faith-based groups including the Governor's Evangelical Advisory Council (GEAC), the Ohio Christian Alliance (OAC) and Yeshivas Lubavitch Cincinnati.

One of the ways GOFBCI fostered diversity and inclusiveness with a "community of believers" is by coordinating a monthly roundtable meeting led and inspired by Lt. Governor Jon Husted. Lt. Governor Husted's desire to bring Ohio legislators and directors together resulted in meaningful conversations around shared values. Each monthly session builds on the conversation as the group explores ways to unite us through faith. The monthly meetings at the statehouse aim to share principles that inspire and deepen commitment to public service.

In addition to making increased efforts to spend time in diverse faith communities, GOFBCI has made it a priority to share funding opportunities with a message of inclusion. We have gathered information and learned about the concerns of each region and are confident that the Governor has a diverse group of partners to help do the work.

When selecting partner agencies and organizations it is essential that they have an open-door policy. It is very important to the governor that the resources given are inclusive and cater to diverse families across the State of Ohio.

# Inspiring

*"Thank you for inviting me this was so helpful and encouraging. Your whole staff is amazing and Thank you for Governor DeWine and his proactive stand for the community. Keep up the good work!"*

-Theresa L.

*"I felt this was very meaningful information. I appreciate the wealth of knowledge!"*

-Erica D.

*"So informative and NEEDED! I hope this type of tour of the state continues in 2020."*

-Kendra A.

*"Great information and examples of positive engagement and collaborations & networking. Thank you all!"*

-Cindy S.

*"Thank you! We are blessed to have an open door to our Governor, a gift. This is just the beginning!"*

-Chaze B.

*"I think this was an excellent tour and sharing of pertinent information. It has given us a clear understanding of how to better implement many of our services."*

-Raina B.

# 09

## INNOVATING

**GOFBCI spent the year listening to the needs of the community. Now it's time to plan solutions for FY2020-2021.**

Over the course of the year, the relationships that GOFBCI has built have provided many opportunities that challenged the office to grow in our knowledge of Ohio's critical needs. Our team has made listening to a diverse array of leaders from state legislators, local elected officials, faith leaders and community organizations a priority. Through surveys, evaluations, and roundtable discussions, the discoveries show commonalities from region to region that GOFBCI is passionate about addressing in the next year. The time that we have spent getting to know Ohio's compassion network has inspired us to continue providing productive, educational and social experiences, grant opportunities and meaningful outreach activities by encouraging organizations that are interested in partnering with the GOFBCI to help Ohio families move forward in 2020.

Analyzing the data, it was noteworthy to point out that the value this office provided went far beyond funding but also united organizations to learn about the work that each is doing and find ways to encourage collaboration. The trend in our evaluations and our roundtable discussions helped us to learn that Ohio leaders often feel isolated and work in silos but are very open to the opportunity to collaborate and expand their efforts.

As we move forward, our next steps involve filling the gap of the needs expressed by organizations in our network through training and development.



**Notes**



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**FAITH-BASED  
AND COMMUNITY  
INITIATIVES**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**



[gofbci@governor.ohio.gov](mailto:gofbci@governor.ohio.gov)



[faith-based.ohio.gov](http://faith-based.ohio.gov)



614-466-3398



**MIKE DEWINE**  
**GOVERNOR OF OHIO**