

## Investing in Recovery

Ohio's mental health and addiction crisis impacts every county, city, town, and village. That's why, immediately after taking the oath of office, Governor DeWine signed an executive order creating the RecoveryOhio Initiative to address critical matters concerning mental illness and substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

Ohio's operating budget reflects Governor DeWine's commitment to helping those with mental health and substance use disorders. The budget also reflects his dedication to assisting local schools, law enforcement, businesses, and other agencies that are also facing the consequences of this public health crisis.

Ohio's operating budget supports Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio Initiative by:

**Investing \$18 million in a new public awareness education campaign** to help reduce the stigma associated with mental health and substance use disorders and equip Ohioans with skills needed to implement healthy prevention and intervention approaches in their own homes and personal relationships.

**Investing \$20 million to provide Ohio's schools with free, evidence-based prevention curricula and professional development for school personnel.** Ohio's local Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Boards, in partnership with their local school districts, will receive \$18 million in fiscal year 2020 to purchase evidence-based prevention curricula that provide students with the social and emotional skills they need to make healthy decisions throughout their lives. An additional \$2 million will be provided to Ohio's Educational Service Centers over the biennium to conduct professional development for teachers on prevention education.

**Increasing treatment capacity in Ohio through an investment of \$22 million to provide crisis support for families.** Governor DeWine believes people who need treatment should have access to help. As part of this investment, Governor DeWine is directing more than \$22 million to local Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Boards so communities can provide crisis response efforts to adults and families.

**Investing \$12 million to expand the Ohio START** (Sobriety, Treatment, and Reducing Trauma) **program**, which Governor DeWine started while serving as Attorney General. The program helps local governments offer concentrated, critical services to parents struggling with substance use disorder. Support is also provided to children who are traumatized due to parental addiction.

**Investing an additional \$5 million to create up to 30 more specialized courts** during the biennium. Governor DeWine supports specialty dockets because they give judges the flexibility to order defendants to treatment rather than sentencing them to jail. These programs are a proven way to hold those with mental health and substance use disorders accountable and ensure participation in effective treatment.

**Investing \$3.25 million to create the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC)** consisting of intelligence analysts and computer forensic specialists who will be available for law enforcement agencies across Ohio. The ONIC will help stabilize intelligence sharing and bring high-tech analytical capabilities that will strengthen criminal investigations and improve public safety.

**Investing in effective drug task force models through increased funding for the continued operation of existing local drug task forces.** Governor DeWine will empower local drug task forces with more resources to investigate drug traffickers and take deadly drugs off the streets. Spending for existing drug task forces will increase from \$8 million per year to \$10.5 million in 2020 and 2021 to help local authorities intensify their efforts to combat Ohio's drug epidemic.

**Creating new Cartel Trafficking Route Interdiction task forces** to support Governor DeWine's priority of holding drug traffickers accountable. Governor DeWine is investing \$3.4 million per year in the new task forces, which will be made up of local, state, and federal authorities. The task forces will disrupt the flow of money and drugs from cartels by arresting traffickers and intercepting methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other illegal narcotics coming into and out of Ohio.

