



Investing in Ohio's Communities

Safety and Security

Governor DeWine is focused on ensuring safety and security for all Ohioans. As proposed in the executive budget, for the first time, Ohio will cover the local cost of the standard service for the **Multi-Agency Radio Communication System** (MARCS) with \$58.5 million over the biennium. The funding will ensure that the cost of monthly fees will no longer prevent our first responders from joining this critical network. MARCS provides state-of-the-art wireless digital communications allowing more than 3,000 public safety and public service agencies to easily communicate and coordinate responses.

Ohio will complete the \$45.9 million infrastructure for **Next Generation 9-1-1**, enabling critical access for voice, text, and data used to support emergency responders. Next Generation 9-1-1 provides citizens with advanced communication capabilities when calling for emergency services. Upgrading to the new standard will improve public safety and the systems handling calls and responses.

Governor DeWine's budget includes \$46.5 million to fund **988**, the new three-digit number that connects callers to the existing **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**, where compassionate, accessible care and support is available to anyone experiencing mental health-related distress or for those with concerns for a loved one who may need crisis support.

Building upon our prior success with the Ohio Department of Public Safety's **Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center** (ONIC), the executive budget provides \$13.1 million per fiscal year to expand ONIC and support the investigation of drug-related violent crimes and increase support to local, state, and federal agencies and public sector partners throughout the state. Doubling the support dedicated to ONIC continues the strong partnerships the state has developed with the local law enforcement community.

The Governor's budget plan allows the State Fire Marshal to support Ohio's **volunteer firefighters** by waiving fees at the State Fire Marshal's Fire Academy, increasing equipment and training grants, and upgrading the State Fire Marshal's systems to allow for online training.

Governor DeWine is focused on ensuring that Ohio law enforcement officers have top-notch training opportunities, and this budget includes \$40 million per year for **law enforcement officer continuing professional training** as recommended by the Law Enforcement Training Funding Study Commission. In addition, the Department of Public Safety will create a new statewide **law enforcement accreditation program** and a regional liaison program will receive \$6 million to support law enforcement and their communities.

New programming focusing on **increased accessibility to driver training and stronger driver education requirements** to promote safety will receive \$6 million per fiscal year.



Housing Infrastructure

The executive budget includes \$100 million in tax credits per fiscal year for the **development and rehabilitation of low-income multi-family rental housing** projects that increase the affordable housing supply. The credits are part of a four-year program totaling \$400 million.

The supply of **affordable single-family housing** will also be supported with a new tax credit in this budget. Qualifying projects will be eligible for tax credits totaling \$50 million per fiscal year. These credits are part of a four-year program totaling \$200 million.

The budget also includes a new program supporting stable communities through home ownership. Ohioans planning to purchase a home or make major improvements will be able to open a **home ownership savings account**. Homeowners and prospective home buyers, their families, and their employers will be able to contribute to an account and be eligible to deduct such contributions on their Ohio personal income tax return.

Brent Spence Bridge

The once-in-a-generation **Brent Spence Bridge Corridor Project** will significantly improve the quality of life for those who live and travel along I-75 and I-71 through Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky. The Ohio Department of Transportation continues to work in partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to undertake this major project. This budget includes the appropriations necessary for the project, including more than \$1.6 billion in competitive federal infrastructure grants.

Strong Local Communities

The fiscal stability of local governments and public libraries is extremely important to Ohio's well-being. The budget continues Governor DeWine's commitment to **Ohio's local governments and public libraries by permanently increasing shared revenue** to these critical local partners.

Governor DeWine remains committed to providing counties 100% reimbursement for the cost of providing legal defense for people accused or convicted of a crime who cannot afford an attorney. The executive budget includes \$367 million over the biennium to continue the support of **indigent defense**.

The budget prioritizes the use of one-time federal funding to counties to foster improved **quality of life for seniors** so they can remain in their homes and connected to their communities. A \$40 million pilot program grant will allow seniors to delay entry into Medicaid, preserve their personal assets, and promote a healthy, independent, active lifestyle.

An additional \$8 million over the biennium will be dedicated to **anti-human trafficking initiatives** for emergency housing, specialized training for foster parents, grants to organizations providing direct support to survivors of human trafficking, and additional resources for anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts.

Each year, an average of 20,700 people are released from the state prison system. To assist in their transition back to the community, the budget includes \$20 million over the biennium to fund **reentry initiatives** in housing,



employment, and transition services. Of the total amount, \$8.2 million will expand short- and long-term supportive housing options for individuals who are hard to place in communities or to prevent homelessness upon release from prison. About \$10.7 million will expand community partnerships providing employment services, job readiness training, peer-to-peer mentoring services, family reintegration, and other comprehensive support programs. A total of \$1 million will support and expand local government reentry coalitions throughout Ohio. Local reentry coalitions provide transition services and structure for successful reentry into the community.

The Ohio Department of Youth Services' population has increased by 46% since 2020. This budget includes more than \$17.7 million over the biennium to **support youth** committed to, or transitioning from, custody. Additional funding will be dedicated to year-round vocational education classes for youth in grades 6-12; initiatives to engage families and the committed youth; and adding staff for a multisystemic therapy trauma team. The budget also funds recently enacted legislation allowing for supportive educational or rehabilitative services for youth leaving supervision at 21-years old.

To fix more than a dozen hazardous **railroad grade crossings** around the state, the executive budget provides \$125 million.

Nearly \$100 million is also provided for new and continuing investments in multi-modal transportation including **rail development, county airport improvements, and public transit**. This funding leverages new competitive federal grants made available through the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

County jails will receive \$50 million in additional capital grants for construction and renovation. This is in addition to \$50 million in grants provided to counties through the 2023-2024 state capital budget.

Protecting Ohio's Resources

The executive budget provides \$124.2 million each fiscal year to continue the work of **H2Ohio**, which is Governor DeWine's comprehensive, data-driven approach to improving Ohio's water quality over the long term. Concerted efforts by the Ohio Department of Agriculture, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, and the Ohio Lake Erie Commission ensure **safe and clean water for all Ohioans**.

In addition, a new H2Ohio initiative will **improve the quality of waters specifically in Ohio's rivers**. Through the **H2Ohio Rivers Initiative**, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will protect streamside habitats, monitor aquatic species, and repair streams impacted by acid mine drainage. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will also take part in this program by surveying contaminants and working to reduce salt and chloride in streams and river areas. The budget includes \$58.8 million over the biennium toward these efforts.

Permanently preserving farmland strengthens communities and supports an important sector of Ohio's economy in agriculture. This budget adds \$3.5 million per year to support the Farmland Preservation Program's goal of permanently preserving farmland through the purchase of agricultural easements. The Ohio Department of Agriculture monitors the properties annually to ensure that the farmland remains as farmland. Since its inception, the program has preserved over 100,000 acres of farmland in perpetuity.



OHIO'S TIME
BUDGET OF THE STATE OF OHIO FY 2024-2025

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will use \$2.9 million to address a limited supply of tree seedlings with the development of the new **Buckeye State Tree Nursery**. The facility is expected to generate between 500,000 and 750,000 seedlings in the year of operation and up to 1 million seedlings per year after three years.



This summary was compiled by the Ohio Office of Budget and Management. More information is available at obm.ohio.gov.