



MEDIA RELEASE

Traffic Safety Office

Ohio Traffic Safety Office • Tina O'Grady, Administrator
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OHIO AWARDS \$10.9 MILLION IN TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS *Funds Support Law Enforcement, Safety Partners, Help Keep Roadway Safe*

(COLUMBUS) – Governor Ted Strickland and Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Thomas J. Stickrath today announced ODPS' Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) awarded \$10.9 million in federal traffic safety funding to local law enforcement and safety partners for federal fiscal year 2011.

"Governor Strickland is committed to ensuring communities are as safe as possible, said Director Stickrath. "These grants provide resources that will strengthen our partnerships with leaders at the local, state, county and federal level."

The funds support the efforts of safety partners statewide and focus on traffic safety priority areas such as restraint use, impaired driving, motorcycle safety and youthful drivers. In the past three years, Ohio's roadway fatalities have decreased to near record lows. There were 1,022 fatalities on Ohio's roads in 2009, down from 1,191 in 2008 and 1,257 in 2007.

Competitive grant proposals were accepted and reviewed by OTSO, with funds awarded to projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or significantly improving traffic safety systems. The FFY 2011 competitive grant process solicited grant proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities, hospitals, political subdivisions and other interested groups within selected Ohio counties and jurisdictions (based upon the number of fatal crashes).

OTSO awarded 160 grant proposals for FFY 2011. Federal funds were allocated to 63 of Ohio's 88 counties representing 91.8 percent of Ohio's population (not counting the Ohio State Highway Patrol and Ohio Investigative Unit (whose grants operate on a statewide basis). Grants are given in the following categories: General Traffic Safety, High Visibility Enforcement Overtime, Occupant Protection for Children Program, Countywide OVI Task Force Program, Safe Communities Program and Traffic Engineering. For a complete list of grant awards for FFY 2011, visit the OTSO Web site at: <http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/>

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ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries and improve the quality of life for Ohioans through the coordinated efforts of its Divisions, which include the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Division of Emergency Medical Services and the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO). The Ohio State Highway Patrol enforces traffic laws and OTSO funds the efforts of OVI Task Forces and other grants for law enforcement to combat impaired and unsafe driving and increase seat belt use. OTSO also promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns for highway safety.