



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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OHIO AWARDS \$12.5 MILLION IN TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS *Funds Support Law Enforcement, Safety Partners, Help Keep Highways Safe*

(COLUMBUS) –Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Thomas P. Charles today announced ODPS' Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) awarded \$12,548,719 million in federal traffic safety funding to local law enforcement and safety partners for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012.

"The state is committed to providing resources to ensure our communities are as safe as possible," said Director Charles. "These grants will aid our traffic safety partners in their efforts and 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 seat belt use, impaired driving, motorcycle safety and youthful drivers.

Competitive grant proposals were accepted and reviewed by OCJS, with funds awarded to projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or significantly improving traffic safety systems. The FFY 2012 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).

OCJS awarded 154 grant proposals for FFY 2012, which began Oct. 1. Federal funds were allocated to 63 of Ohio's 88 counties representing 91.1 percent of Ohio's population, not including the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Investigative Unit. Grants are given in the following categories: General Traffic Safety, High Visibility Enforcement Overtime, Countywide OVI Task Force Program, Safe Communities Program and Traffic Engineering. For a complete list of grant awards for FFY 2012, visit the OCJS Web site at: <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/> and click on the Traffic Safety section at the top of the page.

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OCJS serves as the lead justice planning and assistance agency for the state. Through research, technology and grants, OCJS serves a wide variety of agencies committed to reducing and preventing crime across Ohio. OCJS coordinates and funds the efforts of DUI Task Forces and grants for local law enforcement and safety partners to combat impaired and unsafe driving and promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns focused on highway safety.