



MEDIA RELEASE

Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director
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OHIO AWARDS FIRST CERTIFICATIONS TO FOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ADOPTING NEW POLICE STANDARDS

COLUMBUS - The first four law enforcement agencies have adopted and fully implemented the new state standards recently established by the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board as part of the state's efforts to strengthen community and police relations. Within the first two weeks, nearly 50 agencies have already applied for state certification.

Within 30 days of applying for certification, Medina Police Department, Colerain Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and Coldwater Police Department became "certified" by meeting new statewide standards for the use of force, including deadly force, and agency recruitment and hiring. The standards are the first of their kind in Ohio and were developed by the 12-member collaborative in August 2015.

The state has partnered with the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police to help certify Ohio's nearly 1,000 law enforcement agencies on a process to ensure that they are in compliance with Ohio's new standards.

"By engaging in the certification process, these four agencies are demonstrating a commitment to providing outstanding services in their communities," said Karhlton Moore, Executive Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS).

Certifications will continue throughout 2016. The first list of all Ohio compliant agencies will be published in March 2017.

OCJS is also accepting applications for the Ohio Community-Police Relations Grant Program. Grant recipients can receive up to \$30,000 to fund initiatives designed to improve relationships between communities and law enforcement agencies serving them. The deadline for submissions is March 31.

In order to be eligible for funding, law enforcement agencies must be working toward Ohio Collaborative Law Enforcement Agency Certification through the Ohio Collaborative Community-Police Advisory Board.

For more information on the Ohio Collaborative, the certification process for law enforcement and the Ohio Community-Police Relations Grant Program, please visit: <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/ohiocollaborative/>

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