



For Immediate Release:
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State Announces \$3.2 Million in Grants to Support Mental Wellness of Children, Youth and Families

(COLUMBUS, OH) – The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced nearly \$3.2 million in grant awards to combat social isolation and promote mental wellness amid the global COVID-19 pandemic. The funds, which represent a portion of Ohio’s Supplemental COVID-19 Block Grant, will help expand early childhood mental health consultation, strengthen maternal depression services, and increase healing and recovery supports for survivors of youth human trafficking.

“Investing in our children is an investment in Ohio’s future,” said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine. “The pandemic has exacted a mental and emotional toll on children and families. These resources will help connect some of our most vulnerable youth to the programs and services they need to succeed and to live up to their full God-given potential.”

“Meeting the needs of families and promoting healthy development of all children in Ohio are key priorities for the DeWine Administration,” said OhioMHAS Director Lori Criss. “The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on the mental and emotional well-being of children, youth, and families, leading to an increased demand for behavioral health interventions and treatment. We are excited to leverage these federal resources to promote the well-being and resiliency of young Ohioans.”

Six community agencies received funding through this initiative:

Agency	County	Award
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center	Cuyahoga County	\$1,314,946
Collaborative to End Human Trafficking	Cuyahoga County	\$807,284
Foundations Behavioral Health Services	Mercer County	\$92,568
Health Recovery Service	Athens County	\$523,450
Ohio Family Counseling	Cuyahoga County	\$354,320
Pillars of Success	Cuyahoga County	\$100,000

Visit childrensinitiatives.ohio.gov to learn more about what Ohio is doing to help Ohio’s children and families thrive. If you, or a loved one are struggling with mental illness or substance use, call the Ohio CareLine (1.800.720.9616) for free, confidential emotional support and to access help in your local community.

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