



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**For Immediate Release
Tuesday, July 30, 2019**

Fairfield County Awarded Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison Award

Lancaster, Ohio - The Fairfield County Board of Commissioners signed a grant agreement with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on Tuesday, July 30. Fairfield County was awarded a second Targeting Community Alternatives to Prison (TCAP) Award for \$723,952 for SFY2020 and SFY2021. The local TCAP effort is a collaboration between the County Commission, County Sheriff, and County Common Pleas Court.

Dave Levacy, President of the Board of County Commissioners, stated, “We in Fairfield County are pleased with the partnership to target community alternatives to prison. The local effort has resulted in new collaborations to help reduce recidivism and treat those who are incarcerated.”

Judge Dave Trimmer, Common Pleas Court Administrative Judge, added, “The collaboration furthers the effort to effectively supervise, treat, and hold accountable low-level, non-violent offenders by offering new services we would otherwise not be able to offer. We look forward to the grant for its ability to expand the program.”

The grant will be managed by the Common Pleas Court. Grant funds will support two new Common Pleas Court employees (a bond officer and an adult probation officer) for at least two years and through June 30, 2022. The grant allows for total personnel costs of \$280,000 for the grant period. Personnel will provide direct services, such as case management, pretrial coordination, and liaison services for community resources and wraparound services, including but not limited to reentry services, mental health services, housing assistance, educational support services, and employment assistance.

Program expenses are designed to support recovering and reentering adults in their life relationships. The grant will include \$353,952, through June 30, 2022, for program expenses, such as contracted services for mental health assessments (court-focused), substance abuse (and in lieu of conviction) assessments, drug testing, crisis intervention services, and counseling or cognitive behavior therapy, as well as adult probation liaison guided wrap-around services for probationers (such as transportation support, educational support, work related expenses, and license reinstatements) as approved by the Common Pleas Court. Of the \$353,952, \$110,000 is dedicated to continuing mental health crisis intervention and cognitive behavior therapy courses, held at the Fairfield County jail.

Chief Alex Lape of the Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office stated, “The cognitive behavior therapy courses make a positive difference. While incarcerated, inmates have been able to put their time to productive use by completing assignments and engaging in thought-provoking discussions. This helps prepare them for release to the community – and helps to make sure we do not see them again in jail.”

The grant will also fund \$90,000 of equipment for supportive court and law enforcement purposes.

For additional information please contact Carri Brown, County Administrator, and (740) 652-7096 or carri.brown@fairfieldcountyohio.gov.

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