

Northeast Ohio departments awarded drug use prevention education grants

By Andrew Cass, *The News-Herald*

Thursday, August 23, 2018



Several area law enforcement agencies were among the recipients of grants from the [Ohio Attorney General's Office](#) for drug use prevention education.

Statewide the attorney general awarded \$3 million in grants to 152 police departments and sheriff's offices agencies for programs in public schools.

According to a news release, the funds must be used to establish or maintain drug abuse prevention education and awareness programs for students during the 2018-19 school year.

The grant recipients are required to include over-the-counter and prescription drug abuse prevention education in their programs, according to the release.

“Age-appropriate substance abuse prevention education every year, at every grade level is key,” Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said in a statement. “Evidence-based prevention education helps students develop the skills they need to make good decisions, stay drug-free, and live healthier lives.”

The Geauga County Sheriff's Office received the most money locally with \$35,335. Other area departments receiving funds were:

- Chardon Police Department (\$2,833.56)
- Eastlake Police Department (\$8,799)
- Euclid Police Department (\$7,375.05)
- Highland Heights Police Department (\$7,911.80)
- Mayfield Village Police Department (\$5,140)
- Willoughby Police Department (\$10,199.25)
- Willowick Police Department (\$4,796.55)

According to the Attorney General's Office, [D.A.R.E. programs](#) and school resource officer drug use prevention programs were eligible to apply for the grants. All programs must be conducted with the public school superintendent of each school district where programming will take place.

The Drug Use Prevention Grant Fund supports programs such as Botvin LifeSkills, D.A.R.E. Keepin' It REAL, PALS — Prevention through Alternative Learning Styles, Unique You, Too Good For Drugs, Reach Out Now, and Stay on Track.

Eastlake Police Chief Larry Reik said the funds they receive from the Attorney General's Office help pay for the officers teaching the programs in the schools. He said it provides students with one of their first experience with police officers and it's a positive one.

Reik said the department has received money from the Attorney General's Office for education programs for several years.

"I think the impact goes farther than we can articulate on paper," he said.

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