

# **Delaware General Health District**

## ***Dedicated to your health***

*A Safe Communities Grantee of the Ohio Department of Public Safety*

# NEWS RELEASE

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT AIMS TO SAVE LIVES IN DELAWARE COUNTY**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DELAWARE, Oh., Nov. 23, 2010** – Delaware Health Commissioner Frances M. Veverka MPH RS is pleased to announce that the Ohio Department of Public Safety's (ODPS) Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) awarded \$32,400 in federal traffic safety funding to the Delaware General Health District for federal fiscal year 2011.

"These funds are critical to ensuring that we are doing everything possible to keep our community safe," said Commissioner Veverka. "Based on crash data, we have identified driver impairment, distraction, and lack of restraint use as highway safety priorities for Delaware County and are pleased to work with our partners at the local and state level to address these safety issues."

Crash data from 2007 through 2009 show 42 crashes causing 50 fatalities in Delaware County related to driver impairment, distraction, and lack of restraint use (seat belts and/or child safety seats). To reduce these numbers, the Delaware General Health District and the Delaware County Safe Communities/Safe Kids Coalition, will be supporting high-visibility traffic law enforcement and holding educational and awareness events with the grant funds.

The funds are passed through OTSO from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to support the efforts of safety partners statewide and focus on traffic safety priority areas such as restraint use, impaired driving, motorcycle safety and youthful drivers. In the past three years, Ohio's roadway fatalities have decreased to near record lows. There were 1,022 fatalities on Ohio's roads in 2009, down from 1,191 in 2008 and 1,257 in 2007. The Delaware General Health District and the Safe Communities / Safe Kids Coalition are working to continue that trend in Delaware County.

Competitive grant proposals are accepted and reviewed by OTSO, with funds awarded to

projects that will have the greatest impact on reducing fatal crashes or significantly improving traffic safety systems.

For more information about the Ohio Traffic Safety Office and statewide efforts to improve safety on Ohio's roadways, log on to <http://ohiohighwaysafetyoffice.ohio.gov/>.