

# **Delaware General Health District**

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# NEWS RELEASE

## **HEALTH DISTRICT AWARDED HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT FOR 2012**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DELAWARE, Oh., Oct. 24, 2011** – Delaware Health Commissioner Frances M. Veverka MPH, RS, is pleased to announce the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) awarded \$40,000 in federal traffic safety funding to the Delaware General Health District (DGHD) for federal fiscal year 2012.

“Partnerships are critical to the success of any safety effort, and we are committed to working with law enforcement and other safety partners to address traffic safety concerns in Delaware County,” said Commissioner Veverka.

The DGHD identified seat belt nonusage and alcohol and drug use as leading factors in fatal highway crashes in Delaware County last year. There were 12 highway fatalities in the county last year; six of the victims wore no seat belts, and five of the crashes involved alcohol or drugs. Distracted driving also was a factor in multiple fatalities.

The DGHD highway safety program works extensively to teach teens to be safe drivers. Efforts funded by the grant over the next year will focus on using seat belts and not driving distracted or impaired.

The funds are passed through OCJS 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. Competitive grant proposals are accepted and reviewed by OCJS. The FFY 2012 competitive grant process solicited grant proposals from state agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities, hospitals, political subdivisions and other interested groups within selected Ohio counties and jurisdictions (based upon the number of fatal crashes).

For more information about the Office of Criminal Justice Services and statewide efforts to improve safety on Ohio’s roadways, log on to <http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov>.