



## Memorandum

To: Finance Committee Members  
DEI Committee Members

From: Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer Colleen Jackson

cc: David E. Weiss, Mayor  
Jeri E. Chaikin, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Potts, Finance Director

Date: January 11, 2023

**RE: Drive to Succeed: Teen Driver Grant**

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This is a request to authorize a grant application to, and to accept a grant from, the Ohio Traffic Safety Office. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has expanded access to teen driver training for low-income Ohio families through the new “Drive to Succeed” scholarship program. Administered by the Ohio Traffic Safety Office (OTSO) and available via grants to local governmental agencies, teens selected for a scholarship by grantee agencies would attend an eligible Ohio-approved driving school in their area at little to no cost.

Funding to establish these community-based scholarships will be awarded by OTSO to local agencies through a competitive grant process. Local government agencies, such as police departments, sheriffs’ offices, health departments, and others may apply for funding. The proposing agency must be in an area with a population of 5,000 or more.

OTSO will award grants based on: (1) the amount of funding available to OTSO; (2) the total number of proposals submitted to OTSO; and (3) the need of the community, which may be determined by the poverty level, population, and/or fatal crash rates in the community. Funding amounts will depend entirely on these factors, yet are expected to be no less than \$5,000 and no more than \$45,000 per agency. There is no grant match required. The grant period will be for two years.

**“This new program aims to remove the financial barrier that may prevent some teens from enrolling in driver education.”** This is an aim that falls in line with the principles and vision of our DEI Committee whose members will create and run the program should we be awarded the grant.

We recommend approval and authorization to submit a grant application to and to accept a grant from the Ohio Traffic Safety Office for the Drive to Succeed Grant Scholarship Program.

Agencies that wish to receive a grant must submit their proposals before January 27, 2023.