



Ohio APCO Announces Health and Wellness Grant Recipient for 2021

Thursday February 18, 2021

The Ohio Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials is proud to announce the first ever recipient of the chapter's Health and Wellness Grant Program: Ohio ASSIST.

Ohio APCO recognizes the importance of supporting the health and wellness of public safety communications personnel in Ohio. Programs within the state that provide mental health education, peer support, clinical resources and self-care instruction help responders and their families better deal with the stress which can exist in a public safety career.

The [Ohio ASSIST](#) Post Critical Incident Seminar (PCIS) is one such program. The seminar provides the first responder and their chosen support person three days of educational sessions, small group discussion, peer support, voluntary meetings with mental health professionals, and other beneficial programming at no cost to the participants or their agency. Ohio ASSIST classifies Communications Technicians as first responders and encourages telecommunicator participation. Many from Ohio centers have already attended and have experienced the benefit of the seminar which focuses on self-care, peer support, life balance and stress management.

In light of the support that Ohio ASSIST has provided since 2013 to responders in and around the state, Ohio APCO is awarding the first Ohio APCO Health and Wellness grant to Ohio ASSIST for 2021. The \$5000 grant is intended to support program operation costs so that our telecommunicators and other public safety personnel can have access to Ohio Assist and PCIS at no cost to the individual or their agency.

Selection for the program recipient is made annually by Ohio APCO. The amount of \$5000 can be designated to one program or split between multiple programs that offer health and wellness support to public safety communications personnel.

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The Ohio Chapter of APCO is the oldest and largest organization of public safety communications professionals in the State of Ohio. Representing more than 500 members, Ohio APCO serves the needs of public safety communications professionals through education, advocacy and professional development. For more information, visit www.ohioapco.org.