

HELP US ELDER ABUSE

AG's campaign targets growing problem

Attorney General Dave Yost harbors a special contempt for predators who exploit Ohio's most vulnerable victims, including the elderly.

"Shouldn't some things be off limits, even to criminals?" Yost says.

Sadly, though, that's not the case. In the past seven years, Ohio has seen a 400% increase in cases of elder abuse, which includes neglect as well as physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and financial exploitation. Even more astounding: In the vast majority of cases, the abuser knows the victim well.

To combat the problem and increase reporting, Yost has launched a statewide campaign aimed at educating Ohioans about this "devastating yet often-invisible crime" and eliminating any stigma associated with being a victim.

Estimates show that one in 10 Ohioans age 60 or older suffer abuse, but that only one in five cases are reported.

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"I cannot stress this enough: You are not alone. You are the victim, and we are here to help."

Dave Yost

Ohio Attorney General



Several months ago, a heartwarming story played out when a Chillicothe police officer responded to a 9-1-1 call and turned a family's potential tragedy into its everlasting joy.

The emergency call came in about 6 in the evening on Oct. 12. A desperate mother needed help with her 9-month-old baby, who was choking and couldn't breathe.

When Officer Jon Campbell pulled up in his cruiser, the frantic mom was waiting at the curb, cradling her little girl.

Thanks to footage from Officer Campbell's body camera, we can see for ourselves how quickly and calmly he sized up the situation and took action.

As he pops out of his car and steps toward the mother, all he asks is: "Choking still? Choking still?"

He takes the baby, holds her face-down in his left hand, and gently taps her back with his right hand. On the fifth tap, the child starts crying.

"There you go, baby; there you go," he says. "You're all right, sweetheart."

As he rubs the baby's back, he reassures the mother that everything will be OK. She's so overcome with relief, she can't speak. At this point, Campbell has been on the scene less than 20 seconds.

If you haven't seen the video, look it up online and be prepared to tear up.

By the way, baby Josephine is doing just fine. And for his heroism, Officer Campbell was awarded the Medal of Merit from the Chillicothe PD.

I congratulate Officer Campbell on the skill and grace he showed under pressure. To be in the right place at the right time to save another person's life, and then to have the knowledge and ability to actually do it, seems like a circumstance ordained by heaven. I know for certain that it's a responsibility and privilege that most of us, including cops, will never experience.

Way to go, Sir!

Unfortunately, these kinds of feel-good stories are too often supplanted by news of officers lost in the line of duty. This edition of On The



On Oct. 12, Chillicothe Police Officer Jon Campbell responded to a call involving a choking infant. Thanks to his quick action in clearing the blockage, baby Josephine is just fine now.

Job encompasses another such death — that of Highway Patrol Trooper Nicholas Cayton, who was killed when a truck rammed into his cruiser after he had pulled over to help a disabled vehicle. He left behind a wife and two young children.

In their own way, Officer Campbell's lifesaving efforts and Trooper Cayton's tragic death illustrate why I believe every peace officer is a hero, every day.

Every day throughout Ohio and elsewhere, peace officers begin a shift never knowing what the job

will bring. From the moment they take the oath, and each time they pin on the badge, they know what the cost could be.

And yet they answer the call anyway. For that, we are forever grateful.

Yours,
Dave Yost
Dave Yost
Ohio Attorney General

GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

The office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost has released a fourth round of payments for its Opioid Remediation Grant Program. The grants, funded by opioid settlement money, support addiction treatment for inmates in Ohio jails and community-based correctional facilities (CBCFs). Here's a statistical look at the program to date:

17
Number of jails receiving grants this round

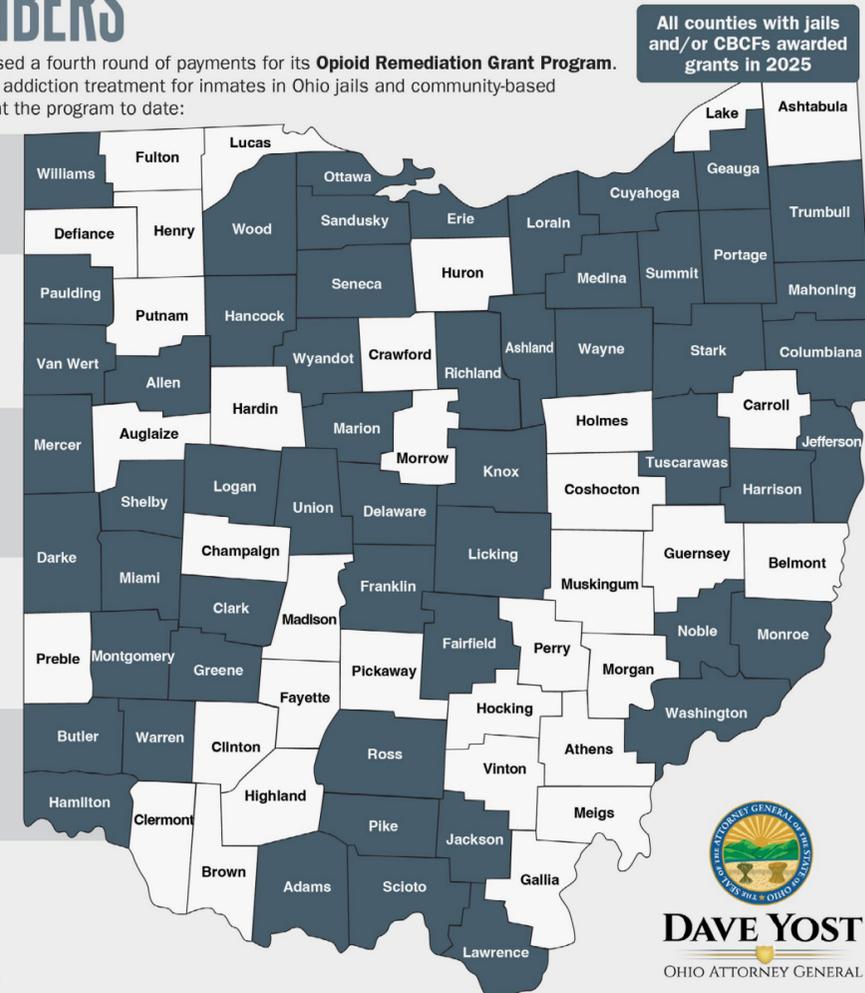
49
Total number of jails receiving grants in 2025

13
Number of community-based correctional facilities (CBCFs) receiving grants in 2025

54
Total number of counties with jails or CBCFs awarded grants in 2025

\$5.3M
Grant money awarded in this round

\$10.9M
Total grant money awarded to date



Grant program to combat inmate addiction continues in 2026

Like every other state in the nation, Ohio has a drug problem in its jails and Community-Based Correctional Facilities (CBCFs) — a problem that Attorney General Dave Yost is determined to rein in.

To help fight the scourge, Yost in 2025 created the Opioid Remediation Grant Program and awarded nearly \$11 million through the end of the year.

"These grants do more than prevent overdoses — they give inmates a fighting chance to break the cycle of substance abuse and incarceration," Yost said. "Credit to Ohio's sheriffs and local leaders for their hard work and innovation in putting this money to good use across the state."

Additional money is available — \$60 million total over several years — and Yost wants to be sure that sheriffs and CBCF administrators make the most of the opportunity. (CBCFs serve as residential prison diversion programs for nonviolent offenders.)



How to apply

Find the application form by scanning the QR code or visiting: <https://tinyurl.com/5n87z5ch>

Note: All counties — including those awarded grants in 2025 — can apply through Dec. 1, 2026. Repeat applicants should apply in the same quarter they applied in 2025. No grant payments for 2026 will be made to repeat applicants until all 2025 funding has been expended.

All sheriffs and CBCF administrators, regardless of whether they received money in 2025, are eligible for funding in 2026. County jails and CBCFs are eligible for up to \$200,000 per year to hire a full-time addiction-services coordinator or to contract with a company that provides such services to treat opioid and other addictions, helping inmates through detox and recovery. Additionally, any county that operates a jail can apply for a \$50,000 grant to fund medications and supplies for inmates experiencing opioid withdrawal.

The grant program was originally intended for county jails only — where as many as 75% of inmates have substance-abuse disorders, often related to opioids. Overdose is a leading cause of death among jail inmates in Ohio.

Late last year, Yost expanded eligibility for the grant program to include CBCFs. In all, 49 jails serving 54 counties and 13 CBCFs received more than \$10.9 million in grants in 2025. The program is funded with money from opioid settlements negotiated by Yost's office.



ON THE JOB
CRIMINAL JUSTICE UPDATE

On the Job is typically published four times a year by the Ohio Attorney General's Office.

To offer story ideas, contact Publications Director Mary Lynn Plageman at MaryLynn.Plageman@OhioAGO.gov.

Sign up for the electronic edition at www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/EmailUpdates.

WINTER 2026 | Volume 18, Issue 1

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TROOPER NICHOLAS CAYTON
Ohio State Highway Patrol
End of Watch: Oct. 16, 2025



OFFICER DAVE WOLGAMOTT
Canton Police Department
End of Watch: Nov. 10, 2025

Northeast Ohio mourning deaths of peace officers

Trooper Nicholas Cayton

About noon on Oct. 16, Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper Nicholas Cayton responded to a disabled Kenworth tractor-trailer that had struck debris and stopped in the right lane of Route 11 in Canfield, about 10 miles southwest of Youngstown.

He was in his patrol cruiser with the lights flashing when a Mack truck crashed into his car and pushed it into the tractor-trailer. The 40-year-old trooper died at the scene.

Trooper Cayton, who had served on the Highway Patrol since 2012, is remembered for his courage, commitment, and unwavering dedication to protecting others. “We feel the loss deeply and personally,” Patrol Superintendent Col. Charles Jones said.

Cayton was named Post Trooper of the Year in 2022 and, two years later, earned the designation of Master Trooper.

A 2004 graduate of Carrollton High School, he joined the Ohio Army National Guard in 2007 while attending Youngstown State University. He was deployed twice overseas, in 2008 to Iraq with the 583rd Military Police Company and in 2013 to Afghanistan with the 838th Military Police Company. He finished his service as a staff sergeant in 2014.

Trooper Cayton married his high-school

sweetheart, Lynsey, in 2007 and was the proud father of two young children. He loved sports and music and spent many years playing the bagpipes with the Steel Valley Pipes and Drums and the Highway Patrol.

Officer Dave Wolgamott

Canton Police Officer Dave Wolgamott, who served with the department for nearly 20 years, died on Nov. 10 of injuries suffered in a collision as he was driving to work. He was 47.

Roads at the time of the crash, just before 7 a.m., were reported to be icy.

Wolgamott joined the Canton Police Department in August 2006. He was assigned to the patrol division, working in the jail.

“His absence will be deeply felt by his fellow officers, his family, and every resident of Canton,” Mayor William V. Sherer II said.

After graduating from Mogadore High School in 1998, Wolgamott joined the U.S. Army and served in Bosnia. He stayed in the Army National Guard for years afterward.

Before he was hired by Canton, he worked part-time for the Lakemore, Strasburg and Bolivar police departments.

Officer Wolgamott is survived by his wife of three years, Crystal; a son and daughter; and two stepdaughters.

Lucasville training partner joins Close to Home network

Continuing his efforts to make advanced training more accessible to Ohio’s law enforcement officers, Attorney General Dave Yost and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy have partnered with a seventh regional training partner as part of the Close to Home program.

The Scioto County Career Technical Center, based in Lucasville, will serve southern Ohio.

Yost and OPOTA launched the Close to Home program in 2022 in response to feedback from officers who requested training closer to the communities in which they live and serve. In addition to the convenience they offer, regional training locations reduce lodging and per diem expenses, easing the strain on the budgets of law enforcement agencies.

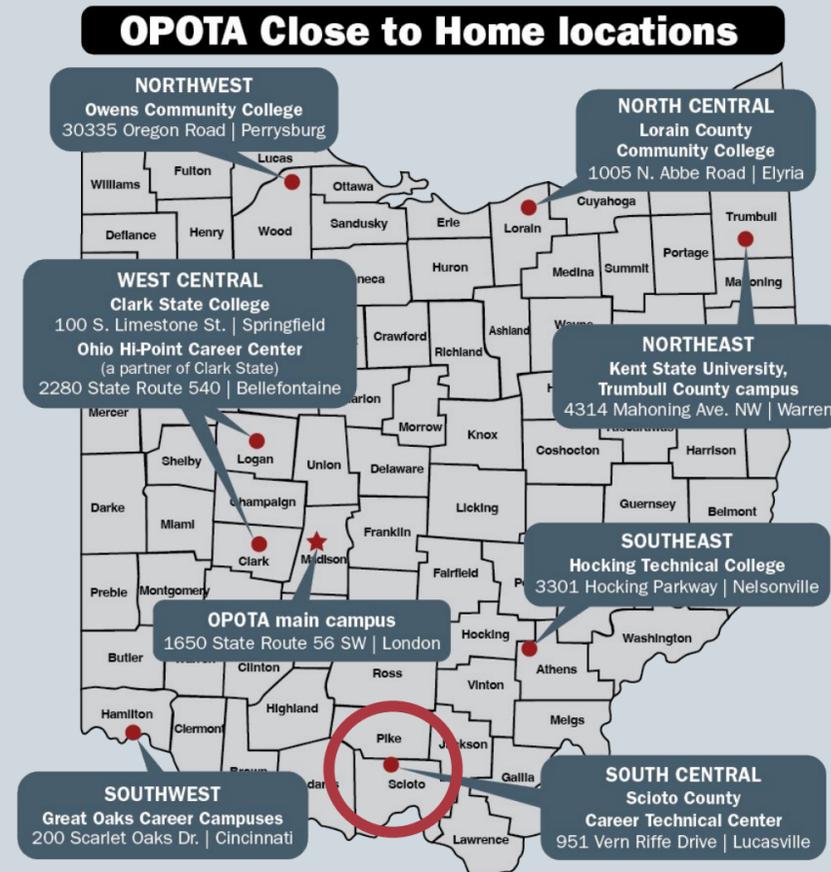
The five charter partners were Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Kent State University’s Trumbull County campus, Clark State College in Springfield, Hocking Technical College in Nelsonville, and Great Oaks Career Campuses in Cincinnati. A sixth regional partner, Owens Community College in Perrysburg, joined the network in 2023.

OPOTA’s main campus, based in London, remains the training provider in central Ohio and continues to welcome officers from around the state.

The regional providers are vocational or community colleges that have a basic police academy attached to them. They offer OPOTA-approved courses taught by active sworn, retired sworn, or licensed professionals who hold instructor certificates from OPOTA. The goal is to provide standardized training that ensures that officers across Ohio respond in predictable ways that achieve the best outcomes for all involved.

Courses hosted by Close to Home partners are listed in the OPOTA catalog. Law enforcement officers register through the catalog or through their Ohio Portal account. After successfully completing a course, students receive an OPOTA certificate, and the training is added to their employee profile.

For questions regarding the OPOTA Close to Home program, please email OPOTACloseToHome@OhioAGO.gov



A central component of the awareness campaign, the video (<https://vimeo.com/1129893268>) is being shared by Yost’s Elder Justice Unit at public events throughout Ohio. It also is the centerpiece of new Elder Abuse Resources webpages on the attorney general’s website.

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“There is an epidemic of underreporting,” Yost said. “Our elders need to know that there is no shame in being victimized. The shame belongs only to those who harm and take advantage of vulnerable residents.”

In remarks to his Elder Abuse Commission, Yost introduced a video — titled “What’s Done in the Dark” — featuring several Ohioans who have fallen victim to elder abuse.

Apart from feeling embarrassed, abuse victims may fear retaliation, may have physical or mental limitations, may be dependent upon their abuser, or may blame themselves for the abuse — factors that contribute to the underreporting problem.

Yost said it’s important for aging Ohioans to know that others care about their suffering and that reporting the crime is the best way to put a stop to it.

“I cannot stress this enough: You are not alone. You are the victim, and we are here to help.”

The Attorney General’s Elder Justice Unit is made up of experts from multiple sections of Yost’s office: the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Consumer Protection, Crime Victim Services, Health Care Fraud and Special Prosecutions.

The message is loud and clear: Elder abuse in any form will not be tolerated.

Partners in prevention

As part of his statewide campaign targeting elder abuse, the Attorney General’s Office is partnering with the



To visit our new resource site, scan the QR code or go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/StopElderAbuse

Ohio Pharmacists Association to promote the initiative and educate pharmacists on how to spot elder abuse and exploitation.

David E. Burke, former executive director of the Pharmacists Association, said the organization is eager to see the collaboration “lead to the prosecution of these heinous acts against seniors. Pharmacy plays a role in maintaining health and dignity. With this effort, that assistance extends beyond the pharmacy counter.”

The Attorney General’s Office is developing training for pharmacists to help them identify those being exploited or abused. Pharmacies also will be showcasing campaign materials in their stores and attaching information to prescriptions.

The partnership is the first of many that Yost’s office is seeking to form with “front line” organizations that regularly come in contact with older Ohioans.

In addition to Ohio’s pharmacists, the Attorney General’s Office also is working with the banking and nursing home associations to enlist their support in the effort.

“It’s going to take all of us — pharmacists, bankers, law enforcement, physicians, retirement communities, and you and me — to get at the root of this scourge,” Yost said. “Our senior citizens deserve dignity, protection and justice as much as anybody else.”



For law enforcement, searching databases is a whole lot easier now

Giving law enforcement agencies the right tools to do their job — and consistently enhancing those tools — has always been a top priority of Attorney General Dave Yost.

The most recent example is an upgrade to the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG), a quantum improvement that radically multiplies the system's effectiveness in fighting crime. In a nutshell, the change allows local agencies to access unprecedented levels of actionable information, better equipping them to protect communities.

OHLEG was created 20 years ago by the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to break down silos among police agencies. It's a secure web-based platform that allows agencies to efficiently share information among themselves and to access dozens of criminal justice databases.

The upgrade, an application called **OHLEG SmartSearch**, improves the speed and efficiency of investigations by streamlining these databases into a single, powerful search.

Whereas OHLEG users previously had to conduct time-consuming searches in each of the databases, they can now search all at once.

"We met with chiefs, sheriffs, detectives, analysts and officers across Ohio," Yost said. "They told us they needed a faster way to search, a smarter way to see data, and a way to stop running the same search a dozen different times."

Among the databases are those from the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction; the Computerized Criminal History System; the Security Threat Group; electronic offender registries (for arson, sex offenses and violent offenses); the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles; the Ohio Courts Network; and the Ohio Protection Order Registry.

"With OHLEG SmartSearch," Yost said, "you can look across virtually any OHLEG record, no matter which section it's in, and instantly find phone numbers, emails, reports, connections that used to take hours to unearth."

Also accessible through SmartSearch is data from the records-management systems of more than 300 law enforcement agencies participating in SwiftShare, a statewide network for sharing crime information across departments.

SmartSearch is more than just a better search tool, however. It also introduces advanced mapping and data-analytics capabilities to help agencies track and better understand criminal trends, patterns and activity in their communities.

Notably, SmartSearch will continue to get better.

"It is built to grow, to evolve, to connect more data than OHLEG has ever accessed before," Yost said. "The more agencies that share their information, the more powerful this tool becomes for everyone."

Updated book offers new insights for investigating police shootings

In 2021, amid a contentious national debate in the wake of the George Floyd shooting in Minneapolis, the Ohio Attorney General's Office and its Bureau of Criminal Investigation published a first-of-its-kind guide for law enforcement that outlined best-practice procedures and protocols for investigating police shootings and other officer-involved critical incidents.

The purpose of the book, according to its author, Mark Kollar, was to create a roadmap that promoted uniformity in how investigators handle such cases — an objective intended to ensure a fair, comprehensive review and to reassure the public of the integrity of the process.

"At the end of the day, it's all about having the trust and faith of the community in which we serve," said Kollar, who has been with BCI since 2008 and has investigated more than 200 of these incidents. He is currently the bureau's assistant superintendent.

Now, almost five years after *Best Practices for Investigating an Officer-Involved Critical Incident* was published, the roadmap is being updated to incorporate significant advancements in technology, changes in case law, and feedback from practitioners in the field.

"The second edition represents a substantial evolution from its predecessor," Kollar said, "reflecting the dynamic nature of OICI investigations and the lessons learned since the original publication."

Among the changes, the legal standards chapter has been expanded to include deeper analysis of Garrity rights, a review of recent case law concerning use of force on prisoners and pre-trial detainees, and a detailed discussion of the 2025 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Barnes v. Felix*, which clarified the importance of contextual and pre-event information in legal analysis. The implications of the Supremacy Clause are also newly addressed, providing guidance for investigations involving federal officers.

Pre-event planning and policy considerations have been updated, with additional resources to help agencies prepare more effectively. The investigative personnel and methodology chapters feature multiple updates, including expanded guidance on video evidence, new photographic examples, and revised information on officer interviews and technological tools. The post-mortem examinations section now includes new material on excited delirium, reflecting ongoing debates in forensic pathology.

Mental health considerations have been refreshed, and the legal review chapter has been renamed and updated to better reflect current prosecutorial practices.

Two new chapters have been added: one on transparency, offering practical strategies for building public trust without compromising investigations, and another on trend analysis and data-driven decision-making.

The second edition also features an appendix with updated forms and protocols currently in use by BCI.

"The book emphasizes that best practices are not rigid protocols but living guidelines," Kollar said, "encouraging investigators to remain perpetual students and adapt to new developments in law, technology, and community expectations."



To download a digital copy of the book, scan the QR code or go to www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/BestPractices



BCI Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge Brent Kirkpatrick, third from left, accepts the Chief David Cameron Leadership in Environmental Crimes Award on behalf of the Attorney General's Office at the 2025 annual conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in Denver. With Kirkpatrick are, from left, BCI Special Agent-In-Charge Roger Davis; BCI Superintendent Bruce Pijanowski; Ken Walker, past president of the IACP; Wayne Kline, a member of the IACP Board of Directors; and BCI Assistant Special Agent-In-Charge Joshua Durst.

SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

'Shine a Light on Dumpers' initiative earns international award

Recognizing the growing toll that open dumping and open burning are having on communities in Ohio, Attorney General Yost and his environmental team created Shine a Light on Dumpers, a collaborative initiative involving BCI special agents and attorneys in his office and local law enforcement agencies.

The initiative, launched in April 2023, targets a problem that wasn't being addressed effectively by any other local, state or federal agency — specifically, criminals who use their property or someone else's to illegally dispose of scrap tires, trash, garbage and other solid waste from industrial, commercial, agricultural and community operations.

In late October, the International Association of Chiefs of Police celebrated the success of Shine a Light on Dumpers by awarding the Attorney General's Office the Chief David Cameron Leadership in Environmental Crimes Award. The prestigious award recognizes agencies that



have improved their communities through environmental crimes prevention, investigation and enforcement.

"Ohio is not anyone's garbage can," Yost said. "This award is proof that when local partners join forces and have access to the right tools, environmental crime doesn't stand a chance."

The attorney general's Environmental Enforcement Section has two units that deal with environmental crimes: One is a BCI team that provides investigative assistance and technical equipment; the other is the Criminal Prosecution Unit.

Although the units often work cases referred to them by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency or the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, they also work directly with local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor's offices.

The full scope of Shine a Light on Dumpers encompasses training, education, legal guidance, technical equipment, and investigative and prosecutorial assistance. Experts from the Attorney General's Office provide these resources to local law enforcement agencies so that those agencies (with help from the public) are equipped to put a stop to illegal dumping in their communities.

As part of the initiative, Yost's office in April awarded \$1 million in grants to Ohio communities seeking to clean up illegal dump sites and deter future offenses. The grants are funded by settlement dollars secured by Yost's office. Twenty-nine grants were awarded for projects in communities in every region of Ohio.



Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events



MAY 7

38th Ohio Peace Officers Memorial Ceremony
OPOTA, London



MAY 18-19

34th Two Days in May conference on victim assistance, Hilton Columbus Downtown



JULY 30

7th annual Human Trafficking Summit
Hyatt Regency Columbus

ON THE JOB

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DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL