



# **Mental Health and Recovery Services Board**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Targeted Community Alternative to Prison funding for Seneca County** written by Mircea Handru, MBA

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC) informed Seneca County of the 2018-2019 Targeted Community Alternative to Prison (T-CAP) grant award in the amount of \$270,088. The purpose of this funding is to effectively supervise, treat and hold accountable low-level, non-violent offenders, and at the same time, safely reduce Ohio's prison population. The target population for this grant is felony-5 offenders, who under certain circumstances, are prohibited from serving a prison sentence on and after July 1, 2018.

Seneca County requested to be a "voluntary county" and be included in this grant opportunity. This grant will save local funds and improve services to the community. *"This is a great opportunity for Seneca County to take advantage of additional funding and improve local services for individuals struggling with drug addiction"*, said Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judge Steve Shuff. Common Pleas Court Judge Michael Kelbley stated, *"Essentially, the dollars can be used broadly to enhance our community corrections, supervision, and criminal justice services."*

Agencies partnered for this grant opportunity include Seneca County Commissioners, Seneca County Common Pleas Court Judges, Seneca County Sheriff's Office, Seneca County Prosecutor's Office, Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court, Oriana House, and the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties. *"This is another example of great collaboration among systems and agencies in our County"*, said Seneca County Commissioner Mike Kerschner.

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