

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE HAZARDOUS  
MATERIALS TRAINING GRANT  
PROGRAM AWARD.

CASE NO. 21-359-TR-UNC

## FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on August 11, 2021

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission awards hazardous materials training grants to 12 applicants as set forth in the attachment.

### II. APPLICABLE LAW

{¶ 2} R.C. 4921.21(B)(2) provides that the first \$800,000 in civil forfeitures collected under R.C. 4923.99 for violations of rules applicable to the highway transportation of hazardous materials shall be credited to the public utilities transportation safety fund. The Commission is tasked with distributing the collected forfeitures to “educational institutions, state agencies, regional planning commissions, and political subdivisions” for the purposes of “emergency response planning and the training of safety, enforcement, and emergency services personnel in proper techniques for the management of hazardous materials releases that occur during transportation or otherwise.” R.C. 4921.21(B)(2). This section also sets forth the manner in which such funds shall be distributed by the Commission for the purposes of emergency response planning.

{¶ 3} Under R.C. 4921.21(B)(2), Cleveland State University receives 50 percent of the funds for its training program for public safety and emergency services personnel in proper techniques for the management of hazardous materials releases that occur during transportation or otherwise. Another five percent is retained by the Commission for administration and hazardous materials training for staff. The remainder is distributed to other educational institutions, regional planning commissions, state agencies, and political subdivisions that have training programs for public safety and emergency services

personnel in proper techniques for the management of hazardous materials releases that occur during transportation or otherwise.

### III. DISCUSSION

{¶ 4} Entities interested in receiving a hazardous materials training grant submit applications to the Commission. Information regarding the grant program and application materials is provided on the Commission's website. All requests are reviewed by a committee of Staff members including the director of the transportation department, the chief financial officer, and legal counsel. The review committee ensures the proposals from applicants are consistent with the purposes described in R.C. 4921.21(B)(2), including whether requested funding for equipment is essential for training purposes, whether courses are sufficiently related to the transportation of hazardous materials, and whether courses involve only necessary travel. These determinations are made pursuant to course descriptions and additional literature provided by the applicant and the course instructor. The review committee must also determine whether sufficient funds are available to reimburse all requests. When necessary, Staff then works with applicants to modify the proposals in consideration of available funds and in accordance with the purpose of R.C. 4921.21(B)(2).

{¶ 5} The total amount of civil forfeitures collected during state fiscal year 2021 for violations of the rules adopted under R.C. 4923.04(A)(2) and the total amount of unexpended hazardous materials training grant funds from prior state fiscal years available for reallocation are sufficient to cover the appropriation authority associated with this grant. As such and pursuant to R.C. 4921.21(B)(2), the Commission may award the maximum amount of \$800,000, of which \$400,000 is reserved for Cleveland State University, leaving \$400,000 available for hazardous materials training grants and any staff administration costs. During this grant cycle, 13 applicants submitted grant requests totaling over \$1.5 million. Since grant requests greatly exceeded available funding during this grant cycle, Staff recommends fully funding Cleveland State University's grant, providing funding for 11 other applications, and denying one application. Specifically, Staff recommends fully

funding all grants for \$50,000 and funding the remaining applicable grants on a pro rata basis with the remaining funds available.

{¶ 6} Accordingly, Staff recommends that the 12 applicants be awarded grants in the amounts indicated in the Attachment to this Finding and Order. These grants are to be made on a reimbursement basis. Hazardous materials training grant funds are not provided to grantees before the approved activities are complete. Once the approved activities are complete, the grantee must submit a request for reimbursement to the Commission. The request for reimbursement shall include sufficient documentation to demonstrate the grantee has followed any and all conditions of the approved grant application and grant agreement.

{¶ 7} The Commission finds that the applications for hazardous materials training grants, as modified in the Attachment, are reasonable and should be awarded. Accordingly, Staff should award the training grants on a reimbursement basis to the selected applicants and enter into a grant agreement in conformance with this Finding and Order and the Attachment.

#### IV. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the hazardous materials training grants be awarded to the applicants in the amounts set forth in the Attachment. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the grants be distributed on a reimbursement basis as set forth in Paragraph 7. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon each of the applicants identified in the Attachment.

COMMISSIONERS:

*Approving:*

Jenifer French, Chair  
M. Beth Trombold  
Lawrence K. Friedeman  
Daniel R. Conway  
Dennis P. Deters

NJW/hac

## ATTACHMENT

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio received 13 applications for 2021 Hazardous Materials Planning and Training Grants. The grant applications requested funding to pay for hazardous materials emergency response training. Given the number of grant applications, the limited amount of available funds, and the desire to fund as many training grant applications as possible, some individual grant amounts are reduced. Potential grantees were contacted with preliminary determinations of grant amounts and requested to state if they wished to receive the reduced grant. The following outlines the PUCO Hazmat Planning and Training Grant awards for 2021 totaling \$800,000.

The PUCO Hazardous Materials Planning and Training Grants are reimbursement grants. Grant funds are not provided before the approved activities are performed. Once the PUCO makes a grant and the grantee performs the training as described in the approved grant application and the grant agreement, the grantee must submit a request for reimbursement. A request for reimbursement must include documentation that demonstrates the grantee has followed the conditions of the approved grant application and grant agreement. After review for compliance with the conditions of the grant, the grantee is reimbursed. The amount of the reimbursement may be reduced based on the grantee's compliance with the condition of the grant agreement.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TRAINING GRANTS July 2021

#### **Bascom Joint Fire District**

The Bascom Joint Fire District requests \$7,388 to fund Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials Technician (3 day) training for 30 personnel.

The Bascom Joint Fire District is awarded \$7,388 towards the completion of the proposed training.

#### **Brunswick Fire Department**

The Brunswick Fire Department requests \$5,235 to fund Hazardous Materials Operations Level Refresher training for 60 personnel.

The Brunswick Fire Department is awarded \$5,235 towards the completion of the proposed training.

**Cincinnati State Technical and Community College**

The Cincinnati State Technical and Community College requests \$511,185 to fund the following: OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER (HazMat) Training Workshops for 270 students and OSHA 8-hour HazMat/HAZWOPER Annual Refresher Training Workshops for 1,295 students.

The Cincinnati State Technical and Community College is awarded \$138,602.28 towards the completion of the proposed courses. A revised scope of work based on the amount of the grant award versus the grant request must be submitted within 30 days of the Finding and Order approving the grant. The scope of work must contain the number of students and cost per student or cost per class and number of classes to be conducted to comply with the reduced award amount.

**City of Toledo, Division of Environmental Services**

The City of Toledo, Division of Environmental Services requests \$43,923 to fund the following: Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response Refresher (8 hour) for 115 personnel, Emergency Response Awareness Workshops (2 hour) for 250 personnel, Industry Spill Response Training (4 hour) for 120 personnel, Emergency Spill Response Boom Training (2 day) for 50 personnel, Haz Mat Technician Refresher Course (8 hour) for 150 personnel, and First Responder Offensive HazMatIQ Training (4 hour) for 60 personnel.

The City of Toledo, Division of Environmental Services is awarded \$43,923 towards the completion of the proposed courses.

**Cleveland State University**

Cleveland State University requests \$400,000 to fund the 10 courses (119 classes) listed below. Each class will train 8 - 16 students.

- 8 Hour Ohio Hazardous Materials Awareness Training (1 class)
- 8 Hour Ohio Hazardous Materials Refresher Training (75 classes)
- 16 Hour Ohio Hazardous Materials Operations Training (1 class)
- 24 Hour Ohio HMO / HMSO Training (3 classes)
- 40 Hour Ohio Hazardous Materials Technician Training (6 classes)
- 8 Hour Hazardous Materials Alternative Fueled Vehicles Training (9 classes)
- 40 Hour Chemistry of Hazardous Materials Training (1 class)
- 8 Hour Hazardous Materials Permit Required Confined Space Entry Training (6 classes)
- 16 Hour Hazardous Materials Permit Required Confined Space Rescue Training (6 classes)
- 8 Hour Hazardous Materials Permit Required Confined Space Rescue Refresher Training (11 classes)

Cleveland State University is awarded \$400,000 towards the completion of the proposed courses.

**Fort Loramie Community Fire Company**

The Fort Loramie Community Fire Company requests \$19,350 to fund the following: DrugIQ THC Extraction for 30 personnel, HazMatIQ Above the line/below the line for 30 personnel, and HazMatIQ First Responder Offensive Training for 30 personnel.

The Fort Loramie Community Fire Company is awarded \$19,350 towards the completion of the proposed courses.

**Hamilton County LEPC**

The Hamilton County LEPC requests \$10,299 to fund Surviving the Hot Zone Emergency Response Workshop (2 day) for 24 personnel.

The Hamilton County LEPC is awarded \$10,299 towards the completion of the proposed workshop.

**Newark Township Fire Department**

The Newark Township Fire Department requests \$6,300 to fund HazMat Technician Level (24 hour) for 10 personnel.

The Newark Township Fire Department is awarded \$6,300 towards the completion of the proposed course.

**Payne Fire Department**

The Payne Fire Department requests \$10,000 to fund Confined Space Refresher/HazMat Technician/HazMat Refresher training for 18 personnel.

The Payne Fire Department is awarded \$10,000 towards the completion of the proposed training.

**The University of Findlay**

The University of Findlay requests \$434,250 to fund the following training courses: ER HazMat Operations Level (8 hour) for 525 students, ER HazMat Technician Level (24 hour) for 270 students, ER HazMat Refresher (8 hour) for 375 students and Confined Space Entrant/Attendant/Supervisor (8 hour) for 225 students.

The University of Findlay is awarded \$117,742.19 towards the completion of the proposed courses. A revised scope of work based on the amount of the grant award versus the grant request must be submitted within 30 days of the Finding and Order approving the grant. The scope of work must contain the number of students and cost per student or cost per class and number of classes to be conducted to comply with the reduced award amount.

**Wayne County Regional Training Facility**

The Wayne County Regional Training Facility requests \$85,530 to fund the following training

courses:

- Emergency Response to Flammable Liquids & Foam Operations (4 hour) for 40 students
- Spill Response Strategies & Tactics (6 hour) for 80 students
- Ohio HazMat Operations Certification Course (16 hour) for 20 students
- Ohio HazMat Technician Level Certification Course (40 hour) for 20 students
- Hazardous Materials Refresher Training (8 hour) for 96 students
- Emergency Response to Ammonia Incidents (4 hour) for 96 students
- Intermodal Hazardous Materials (4 hour) for 48 students
- Decontamination Operations Training (6 hour) for 48 students
- Managing Gas Emergencies for First Responders (4 hour) for 40 students
- HazMat Air Monitoring (8 hour) for 50 students.

The Wayne County Regional Training Facility is awarded \$23,190.53 towards the completion of the proposed training.

### **Wooster Fire Department**

The Wooster Fire Department requests \$17,970 to fund Hazmat Permit Required Confined Space Rescue Certification for 47 personnel.

The Wooster Fire Department is awarded \$17,970 towards the completion of the proposed training.



**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**8/11/2021 2:47:07 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0359-TR-UNC**

Summary: Finding & Order awarding hazardous materials training grants to 12 applicants as set forth in the attachment. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio