

Technology Grants Fund Local Courts

Fifth Year of Program Supports Nearly Four Dozen Projects

Nearly 50 local court projects received more than \$2.9 million in technology grant funding through the Ohio Supreme Court in 2019. This was the fifth year of grant disbursements, with courts across the state receiving more than \$14 million.

Case management upgrades and security improvements were among the 47 local technology projects selected to receive funding in 2019 through the Ohio Courts Technology Initiative.

The projects selected for funding were scored by a 16-member panel of judges, court administrators, clerks, information technology professionals, security experts, and other personnel from local courts across the state.

Preference for this round of grants was given to those projects upgrading existing case management systems to improve case flow. Other priorities were for projects upgrading or purchasing other technology systems affecting case flow or the fundamental duties of courts; upgrading or improving computer hardware or equipment supporting case management or fundamental duties; and purchasing



Chief Justice O'Connor presents a technology grant to Medina County Court of Common Pleas, pictured with (from left) Judge Joyce V. Kimbler, Judge Kevin Dunn, and Judge Christopher J. Collier.

hardware, software or equipment related to the physical security of courts.

A portion of the funds were set aside to fund courtroom or related building security upgrades or equipment installations. Fourteen of the 47 funded projects were for court-security systems.

The Ohio Courts Technology Initiative was established to improve the exchange of information and warehousing of data by and between Ohio courts and other

justice system partners, an endeavor that includes the Ohio Courts Network.

Ohio appeals, common pleas, municipal, and county courts are encouraged each year to apply for grants to upgrade systems, hardware or equipment, or purchase new ones.

Technology grants from the Supreme Court have helped fund more than 400 court projects in Ohio since 2015.

Educational Video about Courts Debuts

In 2019, the Supreme Court unveiled a video titled [“How Does Ohio’s Court System Work?”](#)

The lively, entertaining take on the judicial branch explains the differences between the various types of courts in the state and importance of the justice system and the rule of law.

The video appeals to students and the public, using graphics and video

clips to explain the court system. This and other tools developed by the Court’s civic education staff inform teachers, students, and the public about the role the judiciary plays in the state and its importance in a fair and balanced government.

The new resource also encourages Ohio schools to visit the Thomas J. Moyer Ohio Judicial Center in Columbus for a tour

and to watch the seven justices participate in oral arguments.

For more information about educational resources available through the Ohio Supreme Court, or to schedule a tour of the Moyer Judicial Center, contact the Civic Education Section at 614.387.9223 or CourtTours@sc.ohio.gov.