



DAVE YOST
OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Shine a light on
DUMPERS

SHINE A LIGHT ON DUMPERS
GRANT APPLICATION

**Cleaning Up Dump Sites and Preventing
Future Dumping in Ohio Communities**

Background

Open dumping of solid waste and demolition debris is a significant problem for many communities throughout Ohio – one that affects big cities, villages and rural areas alike.

This environmental challenge has drawn plenty of media attention, including a Spectrum News 1 report about the considerable costs of illegal dumping. The Dayton Public Works Department told WHIO-TV (Channel 7) that cleaning up illegal dumping is a “constant battle” for the department, and the city of Cincinnati said it typically spends as much as \$4 million annually to clean up litter and illegally dumped waste and debris in its neighborhoods.

The persistent issues statewide prompted Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost in 2023 to launch an initiative to help communities expose dumpers who trash Ohio. “Shine a Light on Dumpers” is a multipronged campaign aimed at holding accountable those who open-dump solid wastes and demolition debris and eliminating these inexcusable eyesores from our communities.

“We want local law enforcement, prosecutors and the public to know what they can do to combat the unsightly and unhealthy problem of dumping – and how my office can help them,” Yost said. “It’s time to reclaim our communities from these polluters.”

Shine a Light on Dumpers consists of training, education, legal guidance, technical-equipment loans, and investigative and prosecutorial assistance. Our experts provide these resources to local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices so that those agencies (with help from the public) are equipped to stop illegal dumping.

For more information, click on this [link](#).

Grant summary

In addition to helping to catch those who illegally pollute Ohio’s neighborhoods, the office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost helps communities remedy the dump sites. In 2025, the Attorney General used \$1 million in settlement money negotiated by his office to establish grants to help counties and local governments with such efforts. Ohio Attorney General Yost plans to spend another \$1 million in settlement dollars in 2026.

County and local governments can apply for a grant to clean up an existing solid-waste dump site or construction-and-demolition-debris dump site and/or use grant dollars to take preventative action to deter future dumping.

The Attorney General’s Office will award grants of up to:

- \$100,000 for a county or local government to pay to clean up a dump site (or dump sites) in its jurisdiction.
- \$20,000 for a county or local government to purchase signs, gates, barriers or other structures to deter future illegal dumping.

The initial application period runs from April 22, 2026, through July 31, 2026, with applications being reviewed and grants awarded during this same period and thereafter on a first-come, first-served basis. If awarded, grant activities must be completed and all funds expended within 12 months of the MOU start date.

The decisions will be based on these key priorities:

- The applicant has no available resources to clean up the dump site or install signs or structures to prevent future open dumping.
- There are no other funds, programs or grants available to pay for the site cleanup or the installation of signs or structures.
- The dump site is a nuisance or blight to the community.
- The dump site is in a residential area or presents a threat to the environment.
- The dump site is owned by a local or county government.

Qualifying expenses

Eligible expenses under this grant program:

- Costs associated with the removal and proper disposal of solid waste and construction and demolition debris that have been open-dumped or illegally discarded, including those for:
 - Necessary services for public or private contractors.
 - Rental of equipment, tools and supplies.
 - Transportation.
 - Licensed landfill or transfer station fees.
 - Required permits.
- Costs for equipment or materials necessary to deter or restrict an area that has been used for open dumping – including signs, gates, chains, poles or other structures to prevent future open dumping.

Ineligible expenses under this grant program:

- Costs that fail to meet the definition of Eligible Expenses
- Employee salaries, benefits or administrative costs
- Financial services and grant writing fees
- Land acquisition
- Replacing operational funds with grant funding
- For any political campaign, political action committee, or governmental lobbying in a partisan manner

Required information

In addition to the completed application form, please include the following with your application:

- Expense projections or bid estimates.
- Photographs of the dump site.

Reporting requirements

If awarded the grant, you will be required to submit a 6-month progress report. In addition, once the grant activities are completed you are required to submit a "Results Report."

Notice regarding application review

A committee of representatives from the Ohio Attorney General's Office will review all applications and have the final say on the winning submissions. The review committee may request additional information or documentation from applicants before making decisions.

Rights and Limitations

- The AGO reserves the right to limit award amounts by application to maximize the impact of the limited funds available.
- The AGO reserves the right to refuse to fund applicants, propose different funding amounts in appropriate circumstances, and decline to fund any applicants should the AGO not find any proposals acceptable.
- The AGO reserves the right to audit any recipient to ensure compliance with the terms set forth in the application or grant agreement.
- Furthermore, the AGO reserves the right to terminate a grant agreement and recoup any funds misspent by an applicant or not spent effectively by an applicant to complete the applicant's proposal. The AGO may conduct site visits to observe and evaluate grant programs.

Application submission

Please submit the completed application (and any accompanying attachments) by email to **StopEnvironmentalCrimes@OhioAGO.gov**.

Contact information

Office of Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost
Attn: Hannah Smith
30 E. Broad St., 25th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
StopEnvironmentalCrimes@OhioAGO.gov

APPLICATION FORM

Cleaning Up Dump Sites and Preventing
Future Dumping in Ohio Communities

LOCAL OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Name of government: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone number: _____

HEAD OF LOCAL OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

TYPE OF GRANT SOUGHT

Cleanup of Open-Dumping Site

Equipment to Deter Future Dumping

PROJECT PROPOSAL

1. Provide an overview of the proposed project including the location and contents of the solid waste and construction and demolition debris dump site.

2. Who owns the property where the dump site is located?


3. Does the applicant have written consent to enter onto the property? Yes No
4. Explain the current impact the dump site has on your community.

5. How would the grant funds be used to address the impact that the dump site has on your community?

6. Does the applicant or another local or county government have available money to fund the proposed project? Yes No

7. Describe the steps necessary to achieve your objectives including an operational timeline.

- 8. Explain how your proposed project or program will be sustainable by preventing future open dumping in the area.**



Please provide detailed descriptions (as exact as possible) of the items listed in the PROJECT BUDGET table.

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LOCAL OR COUNTY GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION AND CERTIFICATION

I understand that, by signing this application, I grant the Ohio Attorney General's Office or its authorized agents access to any records for verification and evaluation of the information provided in the application. I understand that completion of the application does not guarantee that I will receive the requested grant funds.

I understand that all grant recipients must enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Attorney General's Office to authorize receipt and expenditure of the grant funds. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) will specify the total award and stipulate how the grant money may be spent.

I certify that the information I have provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, a true and accurate and complete disclosure of the requested information. I understand that I may be held civilly and criminally liable under federal and state law for knowingly making false or fraudulent statements.

Local or county government: _____

Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____