FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Erie County Health Department Awarded More than $210,000 in Combined Grants to Expand Dental Health Services for Local Students and Residents

Sandusky, OH – [December 2, 2025] – The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) and the Erie County Community Health Center (ECCHC) are proud to announce they have been selected for two crucial grant awards from the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), totaling approximately **$421,000** over three years.

The grants include:
- **The Dental Sealant Grant:** A **two-year, $105,000** award to enhance preventative dental care for children across Erie County.
- **The Dental Safety Net Grant:** A **two-year, $140,350** (per year) award, marking the 4th consecutive year ECHD/ECCHC has received this funding.

Enhancing Preventative Care for Students

The Dental Sealant Grant will be used to implement a comprehensive program providing essential dental screenings and the application of dental sealants to molars. This program will focus on children in key developmental stages: those in grades 2 and 6, with follow-up in Year 2 for students in grades 3 and 7.

"These grant awards are a major win for the oral health of our children," said Nicole Ziegler, RN, ECHD/ECCHC Chief Health Services Officer. "These projects will allow us to proactively provide essential screenings, sealants for children, as well as dental services for all ages."

ECHD and ECCHC will work closely with Erie County schools to bring these crucial preventative services directly to students, removing barriers to care right where they learn.

Strengthening the Dental Safety Net

The Dental Safety Net Grant will ensure that ECHD/ECCHC can continue to provide and expand comprehensive dental services to all residents, regardless of their ability to pay. This commitment to the safety net helps maintain access to vital care for vulnerable populations throughout the county.

About Erie County Health Department:
The Erie County Health Department remains dedicated to improving the health and wellness of all residents through accessible, compassionate, and comprehensive healthcare services. ECHD operates the Erie County Community Health Center, the Erie County Detox, Kaptur Rogowski House, and Compass Point, providing adult day services for Alzheimer's and Dementia patients.

For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com.

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