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Ohio Department of Commerce Announces Financial Literacy Grant Program Award Winner

The Ohio Department of Commerce announced today that Serving Our Seniors will receive \$12,938 in grant funds to provide financial literacy education to older Ohioans throughout Erie County.

Since 1996, Serving Our Seniors has provided services to Erie County older adults to support independent living and to maintain their highest levels of function, participation and dignity.

The overall goal of its financial literacy program is to educate older adults on ways to successfully manage their finances, make informed choices, and plan and maintain long-term financial stability in retirement. The financial literacy program consists of three new learning opportunities that will benefit older adults and caregivers:

- **Community Education** – Three public forums will be held on financial literacy topics, such as Recognizing and Reporting Elder Abuse, Social Security Retirement Income Options and The Good, the Bad and the Ugly of Credit.
- **Money Matters** – A four-week course on financial literacy to help prepare individuals for successful retirement and to prevent financial instability in the future.
- **Erie County Saves** – A year-long program that offers intensive case management services for older adults who are experiencing financial stress and who are committed to rebuilding financial stability.

The Financial Literacy Education Fund is financed through a quarterly transfer of 5 percent of all charges, penalties, and forfeitures levied by the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions' Consumer Finance section. Grant awards are given annually at the discretion of the director of Commerce.

Those interested in future funding cycles can contact the Ohio Division of Financial Institutions' Office of Consumer Affairs by calling 866-278-0003.

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