



Advancing Access to High-Quality Surgical Care in Rural Communities

EXPLORING INNOVATION IN RURAL HEALTHCARE

Wayne HealthCare was pleased to welcome **Grant Bagshaw, District Representative for Senator Bernie Moreno**, for a tour of our surgical services and a discussion about opportunities to enhance access to advanced surgical care in rural communities.

As a Critical Access Hospital, **investing in innovative technology is essential to ensuring patients can receive high-quality care close to home**. During the visit, hospital leaders and clinical staff shared how a robotic-assisted surgical platform could expand access to specialized procedures, improve patient outcomes, support physician recruitment and retention, and strengthen Wayne HealthCare's ability to meet the evolving healthcare needs of our region.

The discussion also highlighted the unique challenges facing rural healthcare providers and the importance of strategic investments that allow independent hospitals to continue delivering exceptional care locally.

We appreciate the opportunity to showcase Wayne HealthCare's commitment to innovation and to share our vision for expanding access to advanced surgical services for the communities we proudly serve.

Grant Award

BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

We are pleased to announce that Wayne HealthCare has been awarded a **\$100,000 Rural Health Network Planning Grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)**. The one-year grant period begins July 1, 2026.

Wayne HealthCare originally applied for this funding opportunity in the spring of 2025. While the grant was not awarded during that cycle, the application received a high evaluation score. Based on the strength of the original proposal, Wayne HealthCare was selected to receive funding in the 2026 grant cycle.

The planning grant will focus on assessing and strengthening mental health resources throughout our community. Over the next year, Wayne HealthCare and its community partners will work together to **develop a strategic plan aimed at improving access to mental health services and addressing identified community needs**.

Key partners in this initiative include the County Board of Health, Recovery and Wellness, and the Coalition for a Healthy Darke County. Lauren Henry, Executive Director of the Wayne HealthCare Foundation, will serve as the project lead for the grant and coordinate planning efforts among partner organizations.

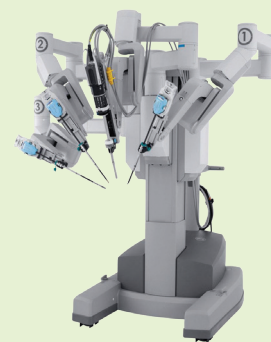
This grant represents an important investment in the future health and well-being of our community and reinforces Wayne HealthCare's commitment to improving access to care for those we serve.



Wayne HealthCare leaders hosted District Representative Grant Bagshaw for an operating room tour and discussion focused on future investments in robotic-assisted surgery and rural healthcare innovation.



The Orthopedic Joint Venture group recently upgraded to the latest Stryker Mako 4 Robotic System, representing a nearly \$800,000 investment in advanced surgical technology and continued excellence in joint replacement care.



Wayne HealthCare is looking at purchasing the da Vinci Surgical System, a robotic-assisted platform by Intuitive Surgical. It enables surgeons to perform complex, minimally invasive procedures through tiny incisions, resulting in smaller scars, less pain, and a faster recovery for patients.