



A Safer Ohio: one youth, one family and one community at a time

Ohio is successfully emerging from one of the most pivotal economic periods in its history, a time during which it closed an historic \$7.7 billion budget imbalance without raising taxes. We cut taxes by \$800 million in 2011 and brought needed new reforms to Medicaid, education and other important efforts. Ohio has risen from 48th in the nation to one of the top job creators in the country and 1st in the Midwest. Yet, too many Ohioans are still out of work and too many changes to state government are still needed. Building on the momentum begun by the last state budget is essential to put Ohio's fiscal house back in order and continue our progress.

Governor John R. Kasich released the Fiscal Years 2014-2015 Proposed Executive Budget. The proposed budget allows DYS to focus on the priorities of rehabilitating youth, empowering families and communities and promoting public safety.

Under the proposed budget, DYS will continue moving forward with system-wide reforms that have transformed DYS into a model for other states. DYS will continue to make the most out of every taxpayer dollar, while maintaining its ability to fulfill its mission. The proposed budget:

PRESERVES TREATMENT FOR YOUTH: Proposed funding preserves the quality of staffing and services in DYS facilities and parole services to meet the needs of youth. Funding for security, education, behavioral health services, medical, dental, unit programming, recreation, life skills, occupational therapy and other specialized services will continue for youth to obtain the help and skills they need to succeed. Funding also allows DYS to pursue an alternative level of care for seriously mentally ill youth.

MAINTAINS FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY CONTINUUM: The proposed budget maintains funding for a continuum of programs and interventions that serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive appropriate setting: RECLAIM Ohio, Youth Services Grant, Lighthouse Youth Center–Paint Creek, Parmadale Treatment Alternative, Community Corrections Facilities, Targeted RECLAIM and the Behavioral Health / Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) initiative will continue to provide youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matches their risk to reoffend.

REVAMPS CENTRAL OFFICE: DYS will scale back administrative overhead while continuing to support critical operations and maximize investments for youth. Staff reductions at Central Office are already underway through attrition, combining job duties, not filling vacancies and restructuring the agency table of organization. These changes will help the agency to operate more efficiently and with lower costs.

PROPOSES \$1.2 MILLION PER YEAR SAVINGS IN FOOD SERVICE: DYS estimates \$1.2 million per year could be saved with a joint request for proposal (RFP) to outsource food service. In one comparison, DYS could reduce the cost of each youth's daily meals by at least \$6 per day while maintaining the nutritional guidelines for a youths' daily caloric intake. The RFP, which would be a joint effort with the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC), would encourage preferential hiring of displaced food service workers.

BOTTOM LINE: The Governor's proposed budget reflects the agency's focus on providing treatment for youth, engaging families, investing in community options and supporting public safety.