



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed

Budget for Fiscal Years 2014-2015

July 1, 2013

Dear Staff:

Happy New Year!

Fiscal New Year, that is. July 1 marks the start of state government's fiscal year 2014 and the first day of a new biennial state budget that will take DYS through June 2015. It's a time for us to make a fresh start with new energy and enthusiasm for the goals we've set for the years ahead.

Governor Kasich recently signed the new state budget into law, and it builds on the job-creating policies in the budget he signed just two years ago when Ohio and the nation were taking the first steps to climb out of the toughest economic downturn since the Great Depression. For example, this budget features:

- A \$2.7 billion net tax cut to make Ohio more competitive with other states – and the world – for jobs and economic growth, including a 10-percent personal income tax reduction over three years and a 50-percent small-business tax deduction on the first \$250,000 of business income.
- A new Achievement Everywhere Plan for Ohio's local schools that delivers \$1.5 billion in additional funds to help create a world-class education system and encourages schools to pursue innovative new education strategies to improve student success.
- A new funding plan for Ohio's public colleges and universities that rewards improved graduation rates in order to make Ohio a more desirable place for job creators to expand or relocate and to strengthen our economy.
- An additional \$3 billion in federal, state and local funds to meet Ohio's pressing transportation infrastructure needs – a crucial factor for a growing economy.

As for DYS, we will continue moving forward with systemic improvements. DYS will utilize its resources wisely while striving to improve our facilities and programs to promote the rehabilitation of the youth in our care. This budget supports the following key areas within DYS:

PRESERVES FUNDING FOR QUALITY TREATMENT: The budget 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.

PRIORITIZES SAFETY: Safety in our facilities is our top priority, and the budget increases the penalty for assaulting a corrections or youth services staff from a fifth degree to a third degree felony.

SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY CONTINUUM: The 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, and Targeted RECLAIM will continue to provide youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matches their risk to reoffend. An additional \$500,000 will expand the Behavioral Health / Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ) initiative to support the practice of utilizing evidence-based community alternatives.

MAXIMIZES RESOURCES TO BETTER SERVE YOUTH: DYS will scale back administrative overhead while continuing to support critical operations and maximize investments for youth. Resources will continue to be examined to ensure that funding follows the youth. Staff reductions at Central Office are already underway through attrition, combining job duties, not filling vacancies and restructuring the agency table of organization. The Legal Assistance Program for youth will now be administered by the Ohio Public Defender’s Office, instead of a private firm, saving DYS \$80,000 annually while protecting youths’ rights. All of these efforts help the agency operate more efficiently and with lower costs.

As we celebrate the start of the state’s new fiscal year, we look forward to working with you and all Ohioans we serve. We’re optimistic about the future of our agency and our outstanding programs as together we improve Ohio’s future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities.