



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Funding Redirected to Support Communities
June 30, 2014

Dear Staff and Stakeholders:

DYS is committed to redirecting funds to best serve the youth involved in Ohio's juvenile justice system.

Beginning in Fiscal Year 2015, an annual increase of \$3.8 million will support the community continuum for serving youth. A total of \$1.6 million will be used to support Community Corrections Facilities while \$2.2 million will create juvenile court subsidies available through a competitive process. This realignment of resources has been made possible by our continued success in reducing the facility population (average daily population of 730 youth in 2011 decreased to 515 youth in 2013), resulting in the closure of the Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility.

Further, a total savings of \$514,436 from Fiscal Year 2014 will provide a one-time reinvestment to courts to enhance community programming for serving youth. In accordance with a provision in H.B. 153 to realign savings, and our mission *to improve Ohio's future by habilitating youth and empowering families and communities*, the funds will support existing court programming by providing evidence-based training for staff.

Our realignment of funds points to our commitment to community-based programming and supports for youth. It reflects ongoing collaborative efforts to serve youth in the right environment with the right treatment. By diverting low to moderate risk youth to community options when appropriate and serving higher risk youth in DYS facilities, we have been able to significantly reduce our facility population and see recidivism trend downward.