



Department of  
Youth Services

## Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed Budget Signed Into Law Supports Youth

July 1, 2015

Last night, Governor John R. Kasich signed into law the state budget for Fiscal Years 2016-2017. The budget preserves Ohio's growth, paves the way for more success, and helps youth succeed. I have shared more of my thoughts in the following video:



*(Click on image to play video)*

Fortunately, provisions for DYS remain unchanged from the Governor's Proposed Executive Budget. The final budget allows DYS to focus on the priorities of rehabilitating youth, empowering families and communities, and promoting public safety. The budget:

**Invests in Community Programs:** The budget provides funding and technical assistance for a continuum of programs and interventions that serve youth closer to their families and in the least restrictive appropriate setting. This includes statewide support of juvenile courts and county partners through RECLAIM Ohio, Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, Youth Services Grant, and Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ), and Community Corrections Facilities. This community investment continues to

provide youth with the intensity of treatment and community supervision that matches their risk to reoffend.

**Preserves Treatment for High-Need Youth:** Funding preserves the quality of staffing and services in juvenile correctional facilities and parole services to meet the complex needs of youth committed to DYS. Funding for security, education, behavioral health services, medical, dental, unit programming, recreation, life skills, occupational therapy, reentry and other specialized services continues for youth to provide the help and skills they need to succeed.

**Supports Community Continuum for Youth:** DYS will strengthen efforts to provide youth with a continuum of care; from prevention, to early intervention, to the commitment decision and continuing through reentry into the community. Our goals are more coordinated, comprehensive, and strategic assessments; case plan development and treatment, and reentry planning involving family members and community partners throughout the process.

In addition, the budget prioritizes multi-system youth, sometimes referred to as “cross-over” youth, those who are involved with child welfare, the mental health and addiction services system, developmental disabilities services system and/or juvenile courts. A 10-member joint legislative committee will work to identify and improve services currently provided to this at-risk population.

Bob Proud, chair of the RECLAIM Advisory Committee and Clermont County Commissioner, explains that the budget is great news for local communities. “I applaud the efforts of Governor Kasich, state lawmakers, and DYS for their continuation of support for RECLAIM Ohio as a statewide funded non-mandate, supporting communities in providing services for young people locally whenever possible,” he said. “Knowing that multi-system youth have higher-risks, now is the time to take a good look at how to best meet their needs,” he added.

As we celebrate the start of a new biennium, I look forward to partnering with you. The future of services for youth is bright, and together we are making a difference for all those we serve.