



Department of
Youth Services

Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Governor's Proposed Executive Budget
January 30, 2017

Governor John R. Kasich released the Fiscal Years 2018-2019 Proposed Executive Budget, "Building for Ohio's Next Generation," today. By working together, we have created a better Ohio over the past six years through new jobs, a balanced budget with funds in reserve, lower taxes, record school funding, and better roads. Now, we must do all we can to be prepared for unexpected challenges, continue the job-growth momentum, and embrace technologies that will continue to propel our state forward.

In a tight economic environment, DYS is fortunate that the proposed budget sustains Ohio's progress in juvenile justice and supports public safety by serving the right youth in the right environment with the right kind of treatment. Highlights include:

Helping Incarcerated Youth Get on the Right Track: The new budget supports safe and therapeutic environments at three state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and four alternative placements for incarcerated youth. Facilities will be able to maintain current core staffing levels. We will continue to pursue conservative central office and parole staffing, with every vacancy carefully scrutinized.

Supporting Community Alternatives: The budget commits approximately \$81.3 million per year to supporting the community continuum for serving youth. Programs including RECLAIM Ohio, Targeted RECLAIM, Competitive RECLAIM, Youth Services Grant, Behavioral Health/Juvenile Justice (BH/JJ), and Community Corrections Facilities are geared for the low to moderate risk population of youth who are more effectively served in appropriate, less costly community settings.

Engaging Family Members: The budget also prioritizes supporting families. By supporting positive relationships between youth and their families, DYS is strengthening relationships, helping families address ongoing issues in the home and empowering parents and guardians to hold youth accountable. Keeping families engaged in their youth's treatment and programming increases the chances of rehabilitation, assists in transitioning the youth back into the community and ultimately helps the youth get on the right path. We will continue to offer the CLOSE to Home Project (Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected), which provided 69 free bus trips to 535 passengers in 2016, as well as the Video Communicator Project, which facilitated 109 family visits over the last year.

Ensuring Quality Education: Several federal funding streams that support the Department's school district are based on a per-pupil allocation. As the facility population has sharply decreased, so have federal funds for the education of DYS youth. The agency will meet the needs of its student population, which includes approximately half receiving special education

services, through nearly \$1.7 million additional general revenue funds over the biennium to address the shift in cost that has occurred.

Our youth are our next generation. I am confident in their future as we strive to provide them with everything they need to succeed. The budget supports success by providing new tools and funding to help address the challenges our communities face, better preparing our young people for college and careers, strengthening Ohio's job-friendly climate, and helping the state advance by embracing technology.