

Investing in Ohio's Local Communities

Communities in Ohio all have diverse needs, but local budgets throughout the state are stressed. Governor Mike DeWine is committed to listening to the concerns of community leaders and collaborating with local government to find solutions. Ohio's operating budget includes substantial investment in local partners to help them provide valuable services to citizens.

The budget supports Governor DeWine's priority to support local governments and help local communities by:

Increasing the state's child protective allocation by \$60 million per year for a total of \$125 million annually. Governor DeWine knows that investing in Ohio's children is an investment in Ohio's future, and this funding will give county children services agencies more resources to help kids whose parents are suffering from mental health or substance use disorders. More than half of Ohio's kids in foster care are there because at least one parent has substance use disorder.

In 2018 alone, more than 26,000 children were served in out-of-home care during the year, a more than 25 percent increase from 2013. Because counties bear a disproportionate share of the cost for caring for these kids, this additional funding will give local children services agencies resources and flexibility to provide for these children.

Increasing state support for indigent defense by \$60 million in FY 2020 and another \$40 million in FY 2021 for an increase of over \$100 million to assist local partners in providing counsel for defendants who cannot afford an attorney. This unprecedented support for indigent defense demonstrates Governor DeWine's belief that the state must help local partners provide individuals with their Constitutional right to counsel.

Under the previous system, the state reimbursement to counties for indigent defense is capped at 50 percent. The Ohio operating budget eliminates the current 50 percent statutory cap on the state's reimbursement share.

This support for counties addresses a pressing need in the criminal justice system and helps alleviate local budget pressures by making county general funds available for other purposes.

Providing local libraries with an additional \$20 million over the biennium by increasing the current rate for the Public Library Fund to 1.70 percent for the upcoming biennium, which was scheduled to return to 1.66 percent in fiscal year 2020. Ohio is library-rich with 251 public library systems which work collaboratively to provide critical services to their patrons. Governor DeWine believes that libraries are the cornerstone of Ohio's communities because they play an important role in workforce development and early literacy initiatives.

Enhancing the Local Government Fund by \$10 million during the biennium, through an increase in the funding percentage. The Local Government Fund will receive 1.68 percent of state General Revenue Fund tax revenues during the biennium, instead of the current 1.66 percent. Cities, villages, townships, counties and park districts shall receive the additional revenue resulting from this change.

Providing local law enforcement with assistance in holding responsible dangerous criminals wanted on Ohio warrants. Following a recommendation from the Ohio Governor's Warrant Task Force, the Ohio operating budget includes funding to help local law enforcement transport wanted suspects arrested in other states back to Ohio.

Investing in effective drug task force models through increased funding for the continued operation of existing local drug task forces. Governor DeWine will empower local drug task forces with more resources to investigate drug traffickers and take deadly drugs off the streets. Spending for existing drug task forces will increase from \$8 million per year to \$10.5 million in 2020 and 2021 to help local authorities intensify their efforts to combat Ohio's drug epidemic.

Creating new Cartel Trafficking Route Interdiction task forces to support Governor DeWine's priority of holding drug traffickers accountable. Governor DeWine is investing \$3.4 million per year in the new task forces, which will be made up of local, state, and

federal authorities. The task forces will disrupt the flow of money and drugs from cartels by arresting traffickers and intercepting methamphetamine, fentanyl, and other illegal narcotics coming into and out of Ohio.

Increasing funding to help solve sexual assault cases. Throughout his career, Governor DeWine has dedicated himself to helping victims of crime. While serving as Ohio's attorney general, Governor DeWine directed the DNA analysis of nearly 14,000 previously untested rape kits. Ohio's operating budget includes \$1 million to support law enforcement agencies with costs associated with investigations and prosecutions resulting from this important testing.

Providing \$6.8 million in fiscal year 2020 and \$9.3 million in fiscal year 2021 for the creation of probation departments in courts that wish to have their own probation departments, in lieu of utilizing state parole officers. Governor DeWine recognizes that local control and operation of probation departments can help local authorities better address the specific needs of the local criminal justice system.

Authorizing local governments to extend Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) terms up to an additional 30 years for larger, high impact developments. TIFs redirect additional real estate taxes created by new development to construct the infrastructure needed by that development. Ohio's operating budget gives local legislative bodies the option to extend a TIF that meets all extension qualifications.

Investing in businesses in Ohio by establishing Opportunity Zones for economically distressed communities. Ohio has the opportunity to bring billions of dollars in private investment to help revitalize communities that need it the most. By conforming Ohio tax law to include the Opportunity Zones established in the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Ohio can provide a brighter future for thousands of Ohioans.

