



THE CENTER FOR EST. 1913
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS
RESEARCH • ANALYSIS • ACTION

**2018-2019 State Budget, Senate Budget:
Ohio Departments of Aging, Developmental
Disabilities, Job and Family Services, and
Mental Health and Addiction Services**

Brie Lusheck, Public Policy Associate

State Budgeting Matters
Volume 13, Number 6
June, 2017

2018-2019 State Budget, Senate Budget Ohio Departments of Aging, Developmental Disabilities, Job and Family Services, and Mental Health and Addiction Services

Brie Lusheck, Public Policy Associate
June, 2017

Introduction

The Ohio Senate passed its version of the State Budget on Wednesday, June 21, after the introduction of the House version on May 2. The Senate had slightly over a month and a half to consider the state's two-year budget after the House deliberated the bill for roughly three months. The House and the Senate will begin conference committee to prepare a final version of the budget to be agreed upon by the General Assembly and then sent to the governor for line item vetoes and signature by June 30.

Ohio Department of Aging

Ombudsman Supports

The as-introduced version of the budget increased the Ombudsman Supports line item by 64 percent. The House-passed version of the budget then reduced that increase by 26.8 percent.¹ The Senate-passed version of the budget maintains the House's changes to the Ombudsman Supports line item.

Senior Community Service

The Senate-passed version of the budget further deepened the House's cut to the Senior Community Service line item. The House-passed version of the budget reduced this line item by 1.5 percent. The Senate version of the budget extended that decrease by cutting an additional 1.5 percent (\$106,554) in each fiscal year.²

Senior Nutrition

The Senate-passed version of the budget restores funding for the Ohio Association of Foodbanks to the as-introduced version of the budget. This provision³ eliminates the House's \$1 million cut over the biennium and maintains the state's resources for the 18.5 percent of seniors who utilize the state's foodbanks.

National Senior Services Corps

After the House-passed version of the budget cut the National Senior Services Corps line item by 1.5 percent over the biennium, the Senate stretched that cut to 6.3 percent (\$15,000) in reductions.⁴ The National Senior Services Corps line item provides mentoring and tutoring to at-risk children, services to homebound seniors, staffing for homeless shelters and foodbanks.⁵ All are vital services to the 2.5 million older adults living in Ohio.⁶

Assisted Living Changes and Personal Care Aide Restrictions

A provision that would have prohibited the establishment of new rates for assisted living and personal care aides was removed in the Senate-passed version of the budget. Elimination of the House-imposed rate freeze allows older Ohioans better access to needed services through competitive rates.

The Department of Developmental Disabilities

Help Me Grow

The House-passed version of the budget made clear distinctions in the Help Me Grow program between the Department of Health and the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD). These changes re-introduced additional burdens for the state in carrying out the programs, whereas changes by the Senate clarify a more centralized process for individuals receiving and accessing Help me Grow services. The Senate added a provision that requires both departments to share funding for child and family outreach.

Line-Item Cuts

The DODD received a significant amount of funding cuts in the Senate-passed version of the budget. Three line items received over 8 percent cuts, for a total loss of over \$6.2 million in general revenue funds (GRF) in fiscal year (FY) 2018 with the addition of some \$300,000 in FY 2019.⁷

The two line items that received the largest cuts were Screening and Early Intervention and County Board Case Management. Screening and Early Intervention funds were added by the House-passed version of the budget for additional programming in specific counties, but these added funds were removed by the Senate.

Supported Living

Language added by the House that extended the renewal for supported living certificates was removed in the Senate-passed version of the budget. The House language would have allowed providers the ability to provide services past certificates' expiration dates as long as a renewal was being processed. In addition, the Senate removed House language that would incorporate additional county board involvement in administering supported living certificates.

The Department of Job and Family Services

Healthier Buckeye Program

The Healthier Buckeye Program was appropriated \$50,000 in each fiscal year in the Senate-passed version of the budget.⁸ However, there is a provision in the Senate-passed version of the budget that moves the remaining funds from the Healthier Buckeye line item to the general revenue fund on July 1, 2017, creating ambiguity in if and where these funds will exist in the Healthier Buckeye Program line item.

Adult Protective Services

The Senate-passed version of the budget removes \$150,000 in each fiscal year from the Adult Protective Services (APS) line-item.⁹ The House-passed version of the budget increased the as-introduced funding by \$250,000 in each fiscal year. The Senate’s changes increase the APS line item by an additional \$100,000 in each fiscal year from the as-introduced version of the budget.

Specific APS language that was added by the House was removed in the Senate-passed version of the budget. Interested parties testified that the language, much of which dealt with definitions and reporting, would be better dealt with through stand-alone legislation. House Bill 78 includes several of the House budget provisions; the bill is currently in the House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee awaiting further consideration.

TANF

The Senate decided to use federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding to fund numerous programs and initiatives. Throughout the budget process organizations have identified unspent TANF funds as an untapped resource to use when GRF has been limited. The additional unspent funds were identified in a previous *State Budgeting Matters*,¹⁰ along with additional parameters on what TANF funds may be used for.

TANF Earmarks, Senate

EARMARK PER FY	PROGRAM
\$5,000,000	Multi-System Youth
\$50,000	Boys and Girls Club of Massillon
\$300,000*	Ohio Parenting and Pregnancy Program
\$15,000,000**	Kinship Care
\$500,000	Central Ohio Big Brothers and Big Sisters
\$300,000	<i>Court Appointed Special Advocate</i>
\$15,000,000	<i>Family and Children Services</i>
\$250,000	<i>Children’s Hunger Alliance</i>
\$36,400,000	TOTAL

Source: LSC Comparison Document

*State MOE

**The Senate added \$5 million to the \$10 million earmarked in the House-passed version of the budget, totaling \$15 million in TANF funds for Kinship Care

Workforce

The Senate-passed version of the budget removes a provision that was added by the House that would identify in-demand jobs that pay 125 percent of the federal minimum wage.¹¹ This would have been included in the state's in-demand job list, a vital piece of information both for Ohioans who are looking for work and for individuals preparing to enter the workforce.

Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Opioid Funding

The House added \$170.6 million to combat the opiate epidemic through four different focus areas: workforce, prevention, mental health, and treatment. The Senate expanded and eliminated some of the House's efforts, resulting in a net increase of \$6 million. The Senate transitioned many of the House's funding sources from GRF to utilize additional TANF funds and local government fund dollars in an effort to target dollars for a quick impact that could be measured by the state. The Senate's opioid plan included an additional emphasis on prosecuting individuals who administer lethal doses of opioids. More on the Senate-passed opioid funding can be found in a recent Community Solutions [blog post](#).

Multi-System Youth

The Senate-version of the budget includes \$5 million in each fiscal year for a crisis stabilization fund for children and families to access treatment and supports for multi-system youth. These additional funds will assist in furthering the goal of finding a holistic approach to assisting youth and families in crisis. In addition, the Senate-passed version of the budget requires the department to develop a data collection and sharing system between agencies who provide services to multi-system youth.

Behavioral Health Redesign

A House provision that would have included community providers from being included in managed care starting July 1, 2018, was moved forward six months by the Senate to January 1, 2018; this is still six months later than the administration's proposed July 1, 2017 start date.¹² The Senate-passed version of the budget adds the possibility for redesign to move forward once beta testing requirements are satisfied, at some time between October 1, 2017, and January 1, 2018. Also added by the Senate is a requirement that the ODMHAS and the Department of Medicaid make available training materials, instructions, and manuals by October 1, 2017. This change allows providers three full months to understand and work through changes before they are implemented in January, allowing for a smoother transition for many small, rural providers who were struggling with adjusting to changes.

Conclusion

Having passed the Senate, the budget bill will now enter conference committee, where the bill will be deliberated by legislators from both chambers and caucuses. As part of the process, both chambers will negotiate the various programs and proposals that they outlined in their respective versions of the budget, which may bring about a very different final version of the budget.

-
- ¹ Legislative Service Commission. "Budget in Detail." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-sp.pdf>
- ² Legislative Service Commission. "Budget in Detail." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-sp.pdf>
- ³ Legislative Service Commission. "Comparison Document." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc132/sp/jfs.pdf>
- ⁴ Legislative Service Commission. "Budget in Detail." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-sp.pdf>
- ⁵ Legislative Service Commission. "Redbook: Department of Aging." March 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/redbooks132/age.pdf>
- ⁶ Hannah, Capital Connections. May 15, 2017
<http://www.hannah.com/DesktopDefaultPublic.aspx?type=hns&id=206405>
- ⁷ Legislative Service Commission. "Budget in Detail." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-sp.pdf>
- ⁸ Legislative Service Commission. "Comparison Document." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc132/sp/jfs.pdf>
- ⁹ Legislative Service Commission. "Budget in Detail." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-sp.pdf>
- ¹⁰ Britton, Tara & Lusheck, Brie "2018-2019, State Budget, As Introduced: Ohio Departments of Job and Family Services, Mental Health and Addiction Services, and Aging." April 2017.
https://ccs.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/State_Budgeting_Matters/2017_2019/sbmv13n3-%20odjfs%20mhas%20aging%20final%20draft_brittonlusheck_04102017.pdf
- ¹¹ Legislative Service Commission. "Comparison Document." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc132/sp/jfs.pdf>
- ¹² Legislative Service Commission. "Comparison Document." June 21, 2017.
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc132/sp/jfs.pdf>

State Budgeting Matters is published by The Center for Community Solutions.
Copyright 2017 by The Center for Community Solutions. All rights reserved.



Comments and questions about this edition may be sent to blusheck@CommunitySolutions.com.
1501 Euclid Ave., Ste. 310, Cleveland, OH 44115
101 E. Town St., Ste. 520, Columbus, OH 43215
P: 216-781-2944 // F: 216-781-2988 // www.CommunitySolutions.com