



Ohio is successfully emerging from one of the most pivotal economic periods in its history, a time during which it closed an historic \$7.7 billion budget imbalance without raising taxes. We cut taxes by \$800 million in 2011 and brought needed new reforms to Medicaid, education and other important efforts. Ohio has risen from 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation to one of the top job creators in the country and 1<sup>st</sup> in the Midwest. Yet, too many Ohioans are still out of work and too many changes to state government are still needed. Building on the momentum begun by the last state budget is essential to put Ohio's fiscal house back in order and continue our progress.

### **Continuing to Improve the Delivery of Services to Ohioans**

The consolidation of the Ohio Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services will result in an aligned system for prevention and treatment of mental illness and addiction. Regardless of where a person accesses care, the combined system will benefit Ohioans thanks to shared resources combined expertise, and a continued commitment to recognizing and valuing the differences in an individual's health care needs. This integrated approach will benefit consumers, families, communities, ADAMH boards and providers by streamlining access to services, business operations, and program administration.

In addition, the 2014-15 Budget will maintain a community support system that is vital to Ohioans with mental health and addiction disorders, while providing millions in targeted funding to encourage successful local collaboration and early identification for overall health and well-being. The Budget provisions allow for targeted resources in the community to ensure quality care in the least restrictive setting for people with mental illness and/or addiction disorders. A strong focus on linkages between state and local systems will ensure that people with behavioral health service needs will receive coordinated care to support the full continuum of services necessary for a productive life.

### **Maintaining Service Delivery at No Additional Cost to Taxpayers:**

- The community subsidy for mental health and addiction services will remain flat to keep the system stabilized. Local Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health (ADAMH) Boards will see a benefit in funding due to the expansion of Medicaid (see below).
- The current system of six regional psychiatric hospitals with a total of approximately 1,100 beds will be maintained.
- Ohio Family and Children First will continue to fund 88 county family and children first councils to help families seeking government services.
- The Residency and Training Program supports faculty in providing training of mental health professionals, including psychiatric residents and students of psychology, nursing and social work to enhance access and quality of care for individuals with severe mental illnesses. This program will receive continued support.

### **Budget Highlights:**

- **Consolidating Mental Health and Addiction Services:** Two current cabinet-level agencies – the Ohio Departments of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services and Mental Health – have aligned into one organization. This will result in 10 percent in savings to Central Administration by clearing unfilled positions and through savings in technology and contracts. The savings have been directed to fund the Community Innovations line item that will be used to encourage local collaboration between behavioral health and criminal justice to reduce recidivism, save taxpayer dollars, and promote employment.

- **Recovery Requires a Community:** Adult Care Facilities will be able to tap into incentive payments for better care management that supports the overall health of their residents.
- **Extending Medicaid Coverage:** The extension of Medicaid benefits to Ohioans up to 138 percent of federal poverty level means that thousands more individuals will have access to health care for mental illness and addiction. It is estimated that Medicaid expansion will free up approximately \$105 million over the biennium in funding that was historically used to pay for services for people who will now be Medicaid eligible. The freed up dollars can be used to pay for community supports like housing, education and transportation to help an individual live a healthy, productive life.