

Pipeline ... Extra!

Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
Ted Strickland, Governor

John L. Martin, Director



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Monday, December 1, 2008

National Financial Crisis' Impact on Ohio's Revenues

The following information was released to all ODMRDD staff this afternoon by ODMRDD Director, John Martin.

At noon today, Governor Ted Strickland held a press conference to announce what the national financial crisis could mean for Ohio's revenues in fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011. Without some major economic recovery or federal assistance, it means that in the next two years, Ohio will confront a serious erosion in the state's revenues.

I encourage you to review the complete text of the Governor's press release and the related PowerPoint presentation, will be posted later today on the www.ohio.gov website, on the Governor's page, and on the ODMRDD homepage at www.mrdd.ohio.gov. In addition, the video of the press conference is available at:

http://www.ohiochannel.org/multimedia/people/media_archive.cfm?file_type=Flash%20Video&person_id=88901

Before the state can determine exactly what this economic news will mean to Ohio's budget in the remainder of fiscal year 2009 and specifically, to ODMRDD, we are waiting for three important sources of information, noted below. The current budget will require action to address another *\$640 million gap* depending upon:

1. Total state tax receipts from "Black Friday," the day after Thanksgiving, a traditionally strong shopping day;
2. Analysis from the Governor's economic advisors in December, of the state's economic status; and,
3. A possible federal stimulus package from Washington D.C. that may provide direct dollars to Ohio government.

The Governor leaves this afternoon for Philadelphia to meet with President-Elect Barack Obama and the nation's Governors, who will collectively make the case to the incoming administration for federal assistance to the states. Ohio is not alone; 49 of our 50 states are either in recession now or are at risk of slipping into recession.

As the Governor said today, the work toward managing this budget situation will require *creativity, flexibility, and collaboration* from all state agencies, and will require extraordinary partnerships across the state.

The ODMRDD is working to provide Ohioans with disabilities and their families some help and some hope – and while the announcement made by Governor Strickland today doesn't change any of that – we will need to continue to work even harder toward our mission of improving the quality of life for Ohio's citizens with developmental disabilities and their families.

During this difficult time, I ask each of you to stay committed to your work, providing solutions to the challenges of those we serve. ODMRDD will work with its stakeholders, in line with available resources, and discuss priorities along with any available funding for those priorities.

In addition, the Governor met with legislative leaders this morning from both houses of the legislature. Governor Strickland is committed to working in bipartisan fashion with the legislature to ensure a balanced budget and continued investment in Ohio's 'economic drivers' and its safety net. He is also committed to working closely with stakeholders and, as a community, determining how to best tackle the challenges we may face in the coming weeks and months.

Thank you again for your work and dedication to those we serve. Before closing, I will share two quotes from the Governor today:

“Our great state is confronted with economic challenges of historic proportions. But armed with a true understanding of the challenges we face, Ohioans will be better equipped to honestly address these difficult circumstances with the same strong resolve and spirit of cooperation we have applied to trying times in our past.”

“Now is the time for all Ohioans to join together, in an extraordinary partnership, to meet the challenges before us. There will be shared sacrifice, but we also recognize that historic opportunities lie on the other side of our current economic challenges. I believe that, working together in common purpose, we will be able to address these circumstances with a consensus, bipartisan budget.”



Pipeline Extra feedback ... direct from you to the state ...

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