

Pipeline ... Extra!

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

John L. Martin, Director



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Friday, December 19 , 2008

National Financial Crisis Continues to Impact ODMRDD Budget

Following closely on a press conference December 1, 2008, at which Governor Ted Strickland announced what the national financial crisis could mean for Ohio's revenues in fiscal years 2009, 2010, and 2011, the Governor today announced a budget cut of 5.75% across the board for state agencies, representing an impact of approximately \$19 million for ODMRDD.

According to ODMRDD Director, John Martin,

"It is important to note that ODMRDD expects that this cut will be alleviated by an increase in federal funding. During the next few weeks we will decide how these cuts will be applied to line items, and we are working to adhere to the goals and strategies set forth in the ODMRDD Futures initiatives in this process. We will share with the MRDD field more specifics as our work progresses."

In a press release issued today, (*see attachment to this email*) Governor Strickland recognized state employees for their hard work and dedication during this difficult time:

"I honor and appreciate the hard work every state employee does every day," Strickland said. "While any budget cuts mean pain and difficulty for state workers, I want you to know that I would not have made this decision if I did not believe it was absolutely necessary and the right thing for the people of Ohio."

Budget reductions announced today will result in \$180.5 million less being spent by state agencies through June 30, 2009. The remaining \$460 million shortfall will be made up through Medicaid spending adjustments and various cash management strategies.

Earlier in the month Governor Strickland had noted, "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." Today's announcement further underscores the deterioration of the national economy, which continues to deprive Ohio of revenue.

The complete text of the Governor's press release will be posted today on the www.ohio.gov website, on the Governor's page, and on the ODMRDD homepage under the 'Budget Information' section at www.mrdd.ohio.gov.

As Governor Strickland has stated consistently, the work toward managing the budget situation will require *creativity, flexibility, and collaboration* from all state agencies, and will require extraordinary partnerships across the state. The ODMRDD will work with its stakeholders, in line with available resources, and discuss priorities along with any available funding for those priorities.

ODMRDD Director John Martin reaffirms that,

“ It is important to stay focused on our mission to provide opportunities for the continuous improvement of the quality of life for Ohio’s citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. It is our hope that with an increase in federal funding, the impact of these cuts can be softened. ”



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

Questions? Comments? *Pipeline Extra* is a publication of the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (ODMRDD) and is distributed infrequently, to highlight breaking news in the MRDD arena. The regular *Pipeline* publication publishes twice monthly to inform readership of relevant information affecting MRDD stakeholders. Please share your questions or comments with us at feedback@odmrdd.state.oh.us or contact Sherry Steinman at sherry.steinman@dmr.state.oh.us , phone (614) 644-0262.

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