



Promoting wellness and recovery

John R. Kasich, Governor • Tracy J. Plouck, Director • 30 E. Broad St. • Columbus, OH 43215 • (614) 466-2596 • mha.ohio.gov

OhioMHAS SFY 16-17 Budget Highlights

"Every Ohioan deserves a chance and an equal opportunity to achieve their God-given potential, and that's the Ohio we're rebuilding for everyone," Governor John R. Kasich, 1/12/15

REDUCING RECIDIVISM AND TREATING ADDICTION IN OHIO'S PRISONS: Approximately 80 percent of Ohio's prison inmates have past histories of drug and alcohol addiction and those who do not overcome their addiction have a higher likelihood of re-entering prison after their release. By leveraging the clinical expertise of OhioMHAS with the strong track record of the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction in keeping recidivism low, Ohio can get inmates the help they need to overcome their addiction while they are serving their sentences and provide a seamless transition of services and supports to ensure sustained recovery after their release. In addition, the state will begin transferring low-level, non-violent inmates with addictions to serve their short-term sentence in a community treatment facility.

MODERNIZE THE MEDICAID BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE BENEFIT: The Medicaid behavioral health population in Ohio represents 27 percent of Medicaid members, but accounts for almost half (47 percent) of Medicaid spend. The most expensive five percent account for over half of behavioral health expenditures. Only 50 percent of the behavioral health population on Medicaid is seen through the community mental health and addiction services system. To address the need to lower costs and better coordinate care, the FY 16-17 budget takes steps to modernize the benefit by aligning billing codes with national standards. Additionally, new benefits will be designed while other benefits will be disaggregated in order to better align services to a person's acuity level in need. This work will lead into the eventual transition of behavioral health into managed care in order to promote better integration with physical health care, leading to stronger coordination, lower cost, and overall better health.

INCREASED ACCESS TO HOUSING: Housing is a critical support needed in conjunction with treatment in order for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorder to sustain recovery. This budget invests an additional \$2.5 million annually in recovery housing, in addition to the previous investment of \$10 million in the Mid-Biennium Review (MBR). Also building on the MBR, the Residential State Supplement program, which supports housing for individuals with mental illness, has doubled in size with nearly 800 new individuals enrolled. This budget's investment will sustain enrollment for this critical service.

SAVING LIVES: Each day, too many lives are lost to tragic deaths due to suicide and drug overdose. This budget hits directly at these preventable deaths by investing \$2 million over the biennium in suicide prevention and \$1 million for the purchase of the life-saving opioid antidote naloxone.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: The behavioral health needs of Ohio's children are a critical area for investment in order to promote wellness, prevent addiction, and intervene early when signs of crisis occur. This budget makes several key investments that prioritize the needs of Ohio's youth, including: increased investment in the Early Childhood Mental Health program of \$5 million over the biennium; the continuation of the Strong Families, Safe Communities partnership with the Department of Developmental Disabilities that works with communities to intervene with youth who are at risk of danger to themselves or others with \$6 million over the biennium; and prevention programming for targeted populations such as children of incarcerated parents with \$3 million over the biennium.

INTERFACE WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Too many individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders find themselves intersecting with the judicial and criminal justice system. Often, such a point of contact presents an opportunity to prompt a person to get the help they need to begin the process of recovery. The FY 16-17 budget contains key investments which will strengthen the relationship between behavioral health and criminal justice, such as: \$10 million over the biennium to support payroll for specialty dockets; continued work with local sheriffs to promote community innovations projects with local jails; and \$1 million over the biennium in additional support for probate courts doing competency evaluations.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON TREATMENT: This budget keeps the focus on getting Ohioans with mental health and substance use treatment needs the help they need. The budget builds on several successful pilot programs from the previous biennium: the Addiction Treatment Program, which works with drug courts to offer Medication-Assisted Treatment, has been expanded from \$2.5 million per year to \$5.5 million per year for an \$11 million investment over the biennium. The state psychiatric hospital system received additional funding in order to continue its strong reputation of high-quality care. Finally, the Medicaid program will continue to support an expanded population by covering over 525,000 previously ineligible Ohioans, making them eligible to access community behavioral health services, if needed.