



# TRANSFORMING OHIO FOR JOBS + GROWTH

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## 2014 MID-BIENNIUM REVIEW

### **HELPING OHIOANS MOST IN NEED**

#### ***Providing the Treatment and Support Ohioans Need to Recover***

Governor John R. Kasich has made it a priority to help our state's most vulnerable citizens. Even when Ohio faced an \$8 billion budget deficit in 2011, Gov. Kasich protected funding for efforts for the most needy, the mentally ill and Ohioans with developmental disabilities. Furthermore, since 2011, he has taken prescription drug abuse head-on, helped more families get needed support for children with autism, worked with Ohio's children's hospitals to fund new research for drug-addicted babies, strongly supported foodbanks, and expanded health care coverage to low-income residents. His Mid-Biennium Review builds on these efforts to help those Ohioans most in need.

- **Strengthening Support for Ohioans with Mental Illness and Addiction:** The MBR increases access to crisis intervention and safe places for Ohioans with mental illness and addiction. The bill reprioritizes the spending of \$47.5 million in one-time resources to focus on strengthening Ohio's system of behavioral health. Funded provisions include:
  - Using evidence-based programming that has proven to keep kids away from drugs, meaning fewer families will have to deal with the costs and heartache of addiction in the future (\$6.5 million),
  - Doubling state funding for the Residential State Supplement for housing (\$7.5 million),
  - Expanding access to recovery housing (\$5 million),
  - Supporting specialty docket costs to ensure that offenders comply with treatment (\$4.4 million), and
  - Targeting gaps in care such as crisis services and housing (\$24.1 million).
- **Expanding Ohio's New "Start Talking!" Drug Abuse Prevention Campaign:** Ohio's "Start Talking!" program will be expanded by working with legislators to get the program adopted by more schools across Ohio. "Start Talking!" is rooted in research that shows youth are up to 50 percent less likely to use drugs when parents and adults talk with them about substance abuse than youth whose parents do not. Since it was launched, the program has interacted with more than 16,400 students, and engaged more than 500 student ambassadors to stand up and be leaders in their schools.
- **Tobacco Cessation:** The MBR allocates \$26.9 million from the Master Settlement Agreement to the Ohio Department of Health to support a five-year plan for tobacco prevention and cessation programs.
- **Services for Individuals with Autism:** In his MBR, Governor Kasich created a voluntary, free-of-charge online training and certification program for Ohioans interested in getting training on how to work with individuals with autism. This service will improve the quality and safety of the supports available to families of children with autism.
- **Human Services Innovation Office:** To begin the process of preparing people for life and the dignity of work by breaking down silos within the state system for those in poverty, a new office will be created within the Department of Job and Family Services.
- **Early Childhood:** The MBR allocates \$16 million in new early childhood education funding to help struggling families provide an education for their children, provide greater access to high-quality childcare and assure childcare for parents on the first day of a new job.

**BOTTOM LINE:** In the past three years Ohio has provided significant new support for Ohioans most in need—the drug addicted, those with mental illness, people with disabilities and others. Every Ohioan deserves a chance to share in our state's emerging recovery and reach their God-given potential. Our increasing commitments to less-fortunate Ohioans can help make that happen.