

Programs for Children and Youth in the Pennsylvania Budget, 2010-2011

On Saturday, July 3 the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved the 2010-2011 state budget, which was signed into law three days later. This year's budget is \$28.04 billion, an increase of just .07 percent more than last year's. It does not raise any new revenue in the short term. (The budget does, however, include an agreement to charge energy companies a fee for the extraction of natural gas during the second half of the fiscal year.) Instead of seeking other ways to raise revenue in an election year, the General Assembly balanced the budget by cutting almost \$1 billion from the budget the administration originally proposed in February.

Thanks to your letters, phone calls and visits to state legislators, many programs that sustain children and families were protected from deep cuts, although most sustained smaller cuts this year.* Coupled with small cuts to last year's budget and three mid-year budget revisions to cope with revenue shortfalls over the past 24 months, these begin to add up.

Overall, state funding for the Department of Education increased one percent this year. School districts will receive an additional \$250,000 million -- \$100 million less than initially proposed -- as part of the General Assembly's six-year commitment to increase public education funding. At the same time, funds for many education programs were reduced or eliminated. The appropriation for Pre-K Counts was lowered by 1.3 percent and Head Start Supplemental Assistance lost 2.7 percent of its funding.

Support for the Department of Public Welfare, which serves many vulnerable children and families, was reduced by one percent. State funding for behavioral health, mental health services, early intervention, supplemental security payments and child welfare was all reduced. In some but not all of instances, funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) will offset cuts, but only partially. Child care subsidy for TANF families was reduced by one half percent.

The following spreadsheet highlights state funding for a number of children's programs. It is designed to help you compare state appropriations for these programs over the past two years. It also shows the impact of the ARRA, if any, in sustaining these programs.

The 2010-2011 state budget process is far from over. In addition to depending on revenue from the extraction of natural gas, it depends on the receipt of \$850 million in federal aid to the states that Congress has been slow to approve. Although Congress has made repeated pledges to support this aid, many members now appear to be more concerned with solving the long-term deficit problem than meeting immediate need for jobs and economic recovery. (For an excellent editorial from the Daily News on this click here: www.philly.com/dailynews/opinion/20100609_A_deficit_of_wisdom_from_Congress.html.) If these funds are not approved within the next month, Pennsylvania will have to cut \$850 million from an already bare-bones budget. The administration anticipates that \$350 million in cuts will come from the Department of Public Welfare and cuts are likely to come from the Department of Education as well. This will not only result in the loss of services, but in the loss of approximately 20,000 jobs in the public and non-profit sectors.

	2008-2009 (enacted)	2009-2010 (enacted)	ARRA ^o + State Appropriation 2009 - 2010	Revised 2009- 2010	2010-2011 (enacted)	ARRA + State Appropriation 2010-2011	% Change in State Funding Over Past - Fiscal Year	% Change in State Funding Over Past 2 Fiscal Years*
Child Care Services	\$171,720	\$171,720	\$193,871	\$171,720	\$171,720	\$213,413	-0-	-0-
Child Care Assistance	224,063	198,147	--	198,147	197,053	--	-0.50%	-12%
Pre-K Counts	86,412	86,412	--	86,412	85,240	--	-1.30%	
Head Start Supplemental Assistance	39,480	39,480	--	39,480	38,384	--	-2.70%	-2.70%

	2008-2009 (enacted)	2009-2010 (enacted)	ARRA° + State Appropriation 2009 - 2010	Revised 2009- 2010	2010-2011 <i>(enacted)</i>	ARRA + State Appropriation 2010-2011	% Change in State Funding Over Past - Fiscal Year	% Change in State Funding Over Past 2 Fiscal Years†
Autism Services	20,056	19,463	22,902	19,463	13,136	14,930	-32.50%	-34.50%
Behavioral Health	45,164	55,331	--	55,331	53,231	--	-3.70%	17.80%
Drug and Alcohol Assistance	42,602	41,750	--	41,750	41,698	--	-0.01%	-2.10%
Mental Health Services	732,665	728,730	736,505	728,730	694,865	700,865	-4.60%	-5.10%
Homeless Assistance	26,623	23,023	--	23,023	22,834	--	-0.08%	-14.20%
Cash Grants	266,079	268,579	368,579	268,579	278,175	528,175 ○	3.50%	4.50%
County Assistance Offices	264,272	260,849	--	--	269,770	--	3.40%	2%
Supplemental Grants – Aged, Blind and Disabled	144,175	154,256	--	154,256	148,450	--	-3.70%	--
Child Welfare Services- Needs Based Budget	1,053,890	1,048,374	--	1,048,374	1,045,607	--	-0.03%	-0.08%
Human Services Development Fund	35,035	29,346	--	29,346	23,478	--	-19%	-32.90%
Research-Based Prevention	4,000	1,500	--	1,500	925	--	-38.30%	-76.80%
Evidence-Based Prevention and Intervention	4,713	1,696	--	1,696	1,020	--	-39.80%	-78.30%
Newborn Screening	4,000	4,443	4,654	4,443	4,232	4,391	4.70%	5.80%

	2008-2009 (enacted)	2009-2010 (enacted)	ARRA° + State Appropriation 2009 - 2010	Revised 2009- 2010	2010-2011 (enacted)	ARRA + State Appropriation 2010-2011	% Change in State Funding Over Past - Fiscal Year	% Change in State Funding Over Past 2 Fiscal Years ⁺
State Health Care Centers	24,198	22,887	--	22,887	21,302	--	-6.90%	-11.90%
Local Health Departments	29,942	28,062	--	28,062	27,553	--	-1.80%	-7.90%
Children's Health Insurance Program	86,900	97,112	--	97,112	97,365	--	--	--
Medical Assistance- Inpatient	463,679	373,515	471,488	373,515	266,982 ◊	368,606	-28.50%	42.4 %)
Medical Assistance- Outpatient	629,395	438,191	651,191	438,191	357,358	533,973	-18.40%	-43.20%
Medical Assistance- Capitation	2,906,116	2,186,187	2,945,699	2,127,765	2,478,449	3,284,262	--	--

◦ American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

⁺ These figures are for state funding only; they do not include ARRA funds.

◦ A portion of ARRA funds for Cash Grants is contingent on Congressional extension of the TANF Emergency Fund by October, 2010.

◊ Decrease of \$106,533 million from FY 2009-2010 to 2010-2011 is offset by \$379,997 million increase in federal Medical Assistance funds for Inpatient Services unrelated to the ARRA.

* Libraries, literacy programs and prevention are notable exceptions. These programs sustained cuts from 15-40 percent this year. See spreadsheet for exact numbers.