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**2018-2019 State Budget, As Enacted:  
Ohio Departments of Aging, Developmental  
Disabilities, & Job and Family Services**

Brie Lusheck, Public Policy Associate

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## 2018-2019 State Budget, As Enacted: Ohio Departments of Aging, Developmental Disabilities, & Job and Family Services

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### The Department of Aging

The Ohio Department of Aging (ODA) saw an increase of \$12 million from Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 to FY 2018.<sup>1</sup> That increase will assist many of the 2.5 million Ohioans who are 60 and over, allowing them the ability to utilize services such as home-delivered meals, respite and support services for individuals with Alzheimer’s, community-based services, and other ODA-provided services.

### ODA, GRF and Non-GRF 2016-2019

	FY 2016	FY 2017	Appropriation FY 2018	% Change FY17-18	Appropriation FY 2019	% Change FY18-19
<i>GRF</i>	\$ 15,474,929	\$ 15,781,476	\$ 14,876,018	-5.74%	\$ 14,876,018	0%
<i>Non-GRF</i>	\$67,117,833	\$63,600,165	\$76,542,303	20.35%	\$76,542,303	0%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 82,592,762	\$ 79,381,641	\$ 91,418,321	15.16%	\$ 91,418,321	0%

Source: LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted

Although the department saw an overall increase in total funding, some line items in ODA saw significant cuts while other items were created or enhanced. Those line items which received cuts and the associated various new initiatives and programs from the department are detailed below.

#### *Assisted Living*

The Assisted Living Program saw a number of changes throughout the budget process. A House provision that would have eliminated ODA’s ability to set rates was removed by the Senate and remained out in the enacted version. Advocates stated the provision would have hindered an incentive for providers to deliver assisted living services, arguably impacting the quality of care for Ohio’s growing aging population.

An additional assisted living provision would have granted the director of ODA the ability to include additional settings where assisted living services could be provided via rule. This provision was removed from the budget, though a compromise was achieved in the enacted version. Achieved in the Conference Committee, the budget now includes a provision creating a workgroup to review assisted living programs and examine additional settings for assisted living programs outside of the Medicaid and state-funded components that exist today.

Line Item Changes

<i>Line Item</i>	FY 2017	As Introduced FY 2018	Appropriation FY 2018
<i>Ombudsman Supports</i>	\$219,632	\$2,050,000	\$1,500,000
<i>Senior Community Service</i>	\$7,426,846	\$7,103,592	\$6,892,484
<i>National Senior Service Corp</i>	\$227,898	\$241,413	\$222,792

Source: LSC Budget in Detail; As Introduced, As Enacted

*Ombudsman Supports*

The as-introduced version of the budget increased the Ombudsman Supports line item by 64 percent, from its FY 2017 expenditures of \$219,632. The enacted version of the budget reduced the initial increases by 26.8 percent. Remaining are an additional \$1.2 million from FY 2017 spending, in both FY 2018 and FY 2019. These additional dollars will fund the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman office and the many services and supports the office provides to older Ohioans in many different care settings.

*Senior Community Service*

The House and Senate versions of the budget decreased funding to the Senior Community Service line item by a combined 3 percent. The enacted cut to the Senior Community Service Block Grant may highly impact the state’s ability to draw down funds from the federal government’s Older American Act funding, hindering the state’s ability to maintain their share of the funds through a maintenance of effort (MOE). The impact on services such as meals will be widespread.

*National Senior Services Corps*

The National Senior Services Corps line item was cut by over 2 percent from its FY 2017 spending levels in the enacted version of the budget. The nearly \$5,000 decrease will affect the mentoring and tutoring of at-risk children, services to homebound seniors, and staffing for homeless shelters and food banks that the National Senior Services Corps line item provides to the over two million older adults living in the state. The as-introduced version of the budget sought to increase this line item from the \$227,898 spent in FY 2017 to \$241,413. In the end, both the House- and Senate-passed versions of the budget cut the introduced amount by 6.3 percent to \$222,792 in FY 2018.

*Adult Protective Services*

The as-enacted version of the budget included the House-passed version of the budget additions to the adult protective service (APS) program in Ohio. Many of these provisions were a part of pending legislation in the House, House Bill 78. Additional APS funding that was added to the House-passed version of the budget, and later reduced by the Senate, left \$100 thousand additional APS funding in the enacted version. Though a small increase to the APS program as a whole, this increase renews the state legislature’s commitment for increased APS funding and supports.

Enacted provisions regarding APS also modify existing APS laws, codify the Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission, and would allow the Commission to continue through administration changes. (The Attorney General’s Elder Abuse Commission works with multiple agencies and organizations who focus on aging issues, providing a platform for many local and statewide organizations to highlight potential areas of elder abuse throughout the state.) The enacted version additionally removes the requirement that county departments of JFS prepare a memorandum of understanding (MOU) establishing procedures to be followed by local officials in cases of elder abuse, neglect, and/or exploitation. Larger counties found the original MOU to be too burdensome to accomplish, highlighting the complexity of coordinating multiple police chiefs and being responsible for large geographic areas. Additional language proposals were made around various definition changes, requirements that ODJFS develop and make available educational materials for individuals who are mandatory reporters, and the expansion of the role of mandatory reporters to include individuals in the financial sector.

The added APS provisions did not make it through the budget process unscathed. Along with 47 other provisions, one veto was particularly notable. A provision that would have allowed law enforcement and prosecutors the ability to receive reimbursements for tasks performed that were related to APS was removed by the governor. Unlike other provisions, this item did not receive a vote to override this veto by the House, and has yet to receive action by the Senate.

**The Department of Developmental Disabilities**

The Department of Developmental Disabilities’ (DODD) as-introduced version of the budget asked for a rather large increase in overall funds, 5.32 percent increase (\$146.6 million) from FY 2017 estimates to FY 2018 appropriations.<sup>2</sup>

This increase was not only maintained, it was increased to a 10.08 percent increase in the enacted version of the budget. This increase will account for additional home and community-based waivers for individuals who desire to live and work in the community, in addition to an increase in wages for direct care staff who play an integral part in making transitions into the community a reality.

**ODODD, GRF and Non-GRF 2016-2019**

	FY 2016	FY 2017	Appropriation FY 2018	% Change FY17-18	Appropriation FY 2019	% Change FY18-19
<i>GRF</i>	\$ 586,430,936	\$656,761,719	\$673,310,954	2.52%	\$678,927,354	.83%
<i>Non-GRF</i>	\$1,934,544,563	\$1,971,709,438	\$2,220,137,346	12.6%	\$2,282,540,251	2.81%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 2,520,975,499	\$ 2,628,471,157	\$ 2,893,448,300	10.08%	\$ 2,961,467,605	2.35%

Source: LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted

*Waivers*

Four line items<sup>3</sup> will allow the DODD to create additional waivers, adding onto the 3,000 additional waivers created in the previous state budget. Medicaid Services, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) and Waiver Match, County Board Waiver Match, and Medicaid Services fund increases will be utilized in creating

“approximately 750 new waivers.”<sup>4</sup> These waivers will assist in transitioning individuals who are currently on a county’s waiting list into community-based settings.

*Ventilator*

Provisions were added to the enacted version of the budget that remove the age requirement for individuals utilizing ventilators in certain settings. Traditionally individuals over the age of 21 would need to be in a hospital setting to receive treatment with a ventilator.

*ICF Reimbursement Rates*

The enacted version of the budget creates provisions that will set in motion the creation of new formulas to determine ICF rates in the future. Language specifies the “intent”<sup>5</sup> of the General Assembly to determine rates between January 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019, allowing for methods of transition to be implemented with the collaboration between the department and various organizations. This provision was added in the as-introduced version of the budget, and modified as the legislation moved through the process.

*Supported Living*

Though the House version of the budget made various changes around the supported living program, those changes remained out of the enacted version of the budget. Changes the House proposed would have extended renewal for supported living certificates and would have extended county involvement in administering supported living certificates.

*Help Me Grow*

Through the budget process, various changes were added to the way the Help Me Grow program is administered, and specifications were added to the roles of DODD and the Department of Health that appeared to be particularly burdensome. Remaining in the enacted version of the budget are provisions added by the House to clarify a central intake and referral system for early intervention funds and shared funding between the two departments.

**Department of Job and Family Services**

The Department of Job and Family Services (JFS) provides an array of programs and services to many Ohioans, from adoption and childcare to adult protective services for aging adults. As to be expected with such a large agency, JFS’s budget underwent months of scrutiny as it made its way through the state budget process, ending with significant funding changes in the TANF program.

**ODJFS, GRF and Non-GRF 2016-2019**

	FY 2016	FY 2017	Appropriation FY 2018	% Change FY17-18	Appropriation FY 2019	% Change FY18-19
<i>GRF</i>	\$ 785,670,950	\$766,262,659	\$788,245,245	2.87%	\$743,317,793	-5.70%
<i>Non-GRF</i>	\$2,185,093,963	\$2,217,860,808	\$2,535,693,766	14.33%	\$2,536,933,378	4.89%
<i>Total</i>	\$ 2,970,764,913	\$ 2,984,123,467	\$ 3,323,939,011	11.39%	\$ 3,280,251,171	-1.31%

Source: LSC Budget in Detail, As Enacted

### *Disability Financial Assistance*

The Disability Financial Assistance (DFA) program remained out of the budget in the enacted version. Provisions were included for the use of county administrative funds to be used while operating the remainder of the program. In addition, the enacted version of the budget requires the executive director of the Office of Health Transformation to create a program that will assist Medicaid recipients in expediting applications for federal benefits.<sup>6</sup> This provision would include applications for programs like DFA.

### *Workforce Development*

The enacted version of the budget incorporated a House-passed provision that would identify in-demand jobs that pay 125 percent of the federal minimum wage. This provision creates a vital piece of information both for Ohioans who are looking for work and for individuals preparing to enter the workforce.

### *Healthier Buckeye Program*

The Healthier Buckeye Program, an initiative created in the previous budget, was left out of the as-introduced version of the budget. Measures were added in the enacted version of the budget that create additional funding, the ability of the state council to continue, and the remainder of funds to be spent by the end of the year. The program was appropriated \$50,000 in each fiscal year in the Senate-enacted version of the budget.

### *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*

The enacted version of the budget included Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) allocations that were added to the budget in both chambers. These additional dollars utilized unspent TANF funds as an untapped resource to use when GRF has been limited. Unspent TANF funds were identified using FY 2017 estimates in contrast to block grant totals. Appropriated funds will eventually be allocated in a TANF Spending Plan and distributed by JFS, highlighting how additional appropriations will be allocated and included with current funding plans.

### **Conclusion**

Although the legislative text currently reads “enacted,” changes are likely to develop during the remainder of the 132nd General Assembly. This budget process not only topped the list for a record number of vetoes from Governor Kasich, but the House made the bold move to override 11 of the governor’s 47 vetoes. How the Senate will decide to act on the House’s overrides is still to be seen and additional overrides may still occur.

As many state departments unravel the budget, additional changes will occur via rule, law, and or discretionary spending. The Center for Community Solutions will further examine these next steps in the months to come as programs are implemented around the state.

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Service Commission. “Budget in Detail.” pg. 11. July 28, 2017.  
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-en-with-fy2017actuals.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Legislative Service Commission. “Budget in Detail.” pg. 27. July 28, 2017  
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/bid132/budgetindetail-hb49-in.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Legislative Service Commission. “Department of Developmental Disabilities Redbook” pg. 18. July 28, 2017.  
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/redbooks132/ddd.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> “DODD Outlines FY18-19 Budget Initiatives” July 29, 2017.  
<http://dodd.ohio.gov/communications/lists/posts/post.aspx?ID=707> 7/26/2017 posted 7/14/2017

<sup>5</sup> Legislative Service Commission. “Comparison Document” July 28, 2017. Pg. 225.  
<http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/fiscal/comparedoc132/en/comparedoc-hb49-en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Legislative Service Commission. “House Bill 49 Bill Analysis” pg. 75. July 28, 2017.  
<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/download?key=7376&format=pdf>.

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Comments and questions about this edition may be sent to [blusheck@CommunitySolutions.com](mailto:blusheck@CommunitySolutions.com).  
1501 Euclid Ave., Ste. 310, Cleveland, OH 44115  
101 E. Town St., Ste. 520, Columbus, OH 43215  
P: 216-781-2944 // F: 216-781-2988 // [www.CommunitySolutions.com](http://www.CommunitySolutions.com)