

GOVERNOR'S POLICY OVERVIEW

Thanks to the bipartisan effort of the General Assembly—along with the dedication of hardworking state employees—Delaware weathered a national economic downturn better than most states. Delaware has been recognized nationally for making tough choices to cut the budgets and live within our means while protecting core state government services. For Fiscal Year 2005, we must continue to exercise fiscal restraint. We must stay the course: limit state expenditures without negatively impacting services, find innovative ways to make government more efficient and do more with less.

As we see the beginning of a forecasted economic recovery take hold in Delaware, it is critical to target additional resources to strengthen the economic base and improve the education of children and the health of citizens. Investing in the Minner-Carney Administration's proposed economic development package will strengthen and diversify Delaware's economy by identifying the successes of the future and laying the groundwork now to realize these goals. Completing the Administration's initiative to place reading resource teachers in every elementary school—along with providing more classroom technology and educator training—will help better prepare children for academics and for life. Funding the Administration's recommendations addressing the root causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer will enable us to reduce the incidence and mortality of this serious disease.

The proposed Fiscal Year 2005 operating budget totals \$2,561.0 million. This budget will enable us to address the goals to which this Administration is committed:

- ◆ Schools that set high standards and prepare children for college, work, and life;
- ◆ A Livable Delaware that strengthens communities and preserves quality of life;
- ◆ Health, safety and self-sufficiency for every Delaware family;
- ◆ Economic development that nurtures and maintains high quality jobs; and
- ◆ A state government that is well-managed.

SCHOOLS THAT SET HIGH STANDARDS AND PREPARE CHILDREN FOR COLLEGE, WORK AND LIFE

- ◆ The Governor's Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act includes \$119,300.0 for public education projects. These funds will be used for

school construction projects in the following school districts: Appoquinimink, Brandywine, Caesar Rodney, Cape Henlopen, Christina, Indian River, New Castle County Vo-Tech, Polytech, and Red Clay.

- ◆ The Governor recommends an increase of \$3,875.5 for the Department of Education in Reading Resource Teachers to complete the implementation of one reading resource teacher in each school with a grade configuration including any combination of grades kindergarten through fifth grade.
- ◆ The Governor recommends an increase of \$300.0 for the Department of Education in Adult Education/Work Force Training to eliminate the existing waiting list, a reduction of approximately 800 slots.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending an increase of \$950.0 for a total appropriation of \$3,050.0 for the Department of Education in Skills, Knowledge and Responsibilities Pay Supplements for supplemental pay associated with professional development clusters, National Board Certified Teachers and mentor stipends.
- ◆ The Governor recommends an increase of \$550.0 for a total appropriation of \$1,100.0 for the Department of Education in Professional Accountability and Instructional Advancement to enhance funding for educators and extend tuition reimbursement funding to paraprofessionals.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending a one-time appropriation of \$1,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund for a Full Day Kindergarten Implementation Fund and \$50.0 in one-time funding for an Implementation Study.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending an appropriation of \$9,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund for classroom textbooks and technology to enhance State and local classroom investments.
- ◆ The Governor recommends an appropriation of \$50.0 for the Delaware Higher Education Commission in Scholarships and Grants for the Delaware Teachers Corps for the purpose of recruiting new teachers.

A LIVABLE DELAWARE THAT STRENGTHENS COMMUNITIES AND PRESERVES QUALITY OF LIFE

- ◆ The Governor's Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act includes \$43,500.0 for green infrastructure, farmland preservation, resource

GOVERNOR'S POLICY OVERVIEW

conservation and development, and wastewater treatment. State taxpayers pay for roads, schools and other services demanded by new development. This Administration's Livable Delaware agenda for fighting sprawl maximizes these taxpayer investments by preserving open space and directing growth to areas where state, county and local governments are prepared for it.

- ◆ The Governor recommends appropriating \$1,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund to the Advanced Planning and Acquisition Fund for the support of Livable Delaware goals through expenditures associated with advanced planning and site acquisition for proposed state facilities, pending proposed legislation.
- ◆ Recommended by the Governor is one-time funding of \$600.0 for Crop Insurance that will be used to provide cost share assistance to farmers.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending an additional \$50.0 to the Livable Delaware special line to provide additional technical assistance to towns as they develop their comprehensive land use plans and to support publication of materials to help towns develop, implement and update their plans and ordinances.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR EVERY DELAWARE FAMILY

- ◆ The Governor is recommending \$9,842.5 in the Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act for the planning and construction of medical facilities, including the Veterans Home, the Stockley Medical Center and a new facility at the Delaware Psychiatric Center.
- ◆ The Governor recommends an increase of \$3,440.0 spread across the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families for inflation and volume adjustments to service provider contracts.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending increases totaling \$2,492.6 and 37.0 FTEs for the Department of Correction to support the opening of the Women's Work Release Center, a Level IV facility solely for females, on the grounds of the Delores J. Baylor Correctional Institution.
- ◆ The Governor recommends an increase of \$1,613.0 to the Department of Health and Social Services,

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services for residential placements, special school graduates, and community placement of individuals from the Stockley Medical Center and adult foster care.

- ◆ The Governor recommends an appropriation of \$988.2 to implement several recommendations of the Task Force on Correctional Officer Compensation, Benefits, and Pension Issues.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending increases of \$96.1 and 1.8 FTE Troopers and \$210.2 ASF and 4.0 ASF FTEs Troopers for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Delaware State Police for additional police coverage in Sussex County.
- ◆ The Governor recommends appropriating \$1,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund to support the Lt. Governor's and the Delaware Health Care Commission's expansion of Safety Net Providers in the Delaware Health Care Access Program, a program assisting low income persons find low-cost health services.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending the appropriation of \$10,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund for the implementation of the Delaware Advisory Council on Cancer Incidence and Mortality's second-year recommendations for addressing the root causes, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of cancer. This appropriation is to be expended over a two-year period.
- ◆ The Governor recommends appropriating \$6,000.0 ASF to the Housing Development Fund from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund to support the preservation of affordable housing through rehabilitation of existing housing units, leveraging federal subsidies for elderly and very low income families and providing a low-income housing initiative.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending an appropriation of \$3,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund for the State Park Water Quality Initiative, a program intended to enhance the water infrastructure quality in Delaware State parks.
- ◆ In support of continuing the improvement of Foster Care, the Governor recommends an increase of \$130.0 in the Department of Services to Children, Youth and Their Families to annualize the Foster Care Board Program.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending an additional \$24,935.9 for Medicaid Non-State to cover projected inflation and volume increases to preserve

GOVERNOR'S POLICY OVERVIEW

benefits for the most vulnerable, including children, elderly and disabled.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THAT NURTURES AND MAINTAINS HIGH QUALITY JOBS

- ◆ The Governor's Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act recommends an appropriation of \$20,500.0 for the Governor's New Economy Initiative. The New Economy Initiative will include a Competitiveness Fund to spur new investments in existing facilities; provide seed funding for technology-based small businesses; make available venture capital funding to meet an identified need in Delaware; capitalize on areas of emerging technologies; support clean energy and fuel cell research; and invest in research and development. These initiatives will focus on diversification of Delaware's economy and foster a vibrant entrepreneurial culture in Delaware's business community. Funds from the New Economy Initiative will also be utilized to leverage federal funds to expand the experimental research center (Delaware Biotechnology Institute).

A STATE GOVERNMENT THAT IS WELL-MANAGED

- ◆ The Governor recommends an appropriation of \$19,000.0 ASF from the Federal Fiscal Relief Fund to the Innovative Technology Fund to support the planning, development, procurement of technology projects to support agency operations and services to Delaware's citizens, primarily the enhancements to the State's existing 800 MHz system and Enterprise Resource Planning Financials package.
- ◆ The Governor is recommending several re-engineering efforts in the following agencies: Delaware Economic Development Office; creating a Customer Care Unit in the Department of Technology and Information; reallocating the Delaware Justice Information System (DELJIS) to the Department of Technology and Information; and establishing an emergency prevention and response unit as well as centralizing technology functions in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.
- ◆ The Governor recommends a supplemental appropriation of \$20,000.0 for a debt reduction initiative. This recommendation further demonstrates Delaware's conservative debt management policies and will be applied toward a deauthorization or defeasance of existing debt authorization.