

# GOVERNOR'S BUDGET OVERVIEW

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2015 Recommended Budget maintains core services provided to Delawareans in the areas of healthcare, public safety and quality of life. The Governor's proposed Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget totals \$3,829.7 million. This budget, in combination with the Recommended Bond and Capital Improvements Act of \$460.9 million and recommended set aside for Grants-in-Aid of \$45.2 million, is within the constitutionally mandated 98.0 percent limit on appropriations.

## Job Creation, Retention and Economic Growth

The Recommended Budget and Bond and Capital Improvements Act contain several funding initiatives designed to enhance Delaware's economy and generate jobs.

- \$22.2 million for the Delaware Strategic Fund. The Delaware Strategic Fund represents the primary funding source used by the Delaware Economic Development Office to provide targeted financial assistance to businesses. Recent projects supported through the Delaware Strategic Fund resources include grants to companies such as Ashland, Incyte Corp., ILC Grayling and Mountaire Farms of Delaware Inc.
- \$10.0 million for a container crane and infrastructure improvements at the Diamond State Port Corporation.
- \$7.0 million for a statewide Urban Redevelopment initiative. This initiative will strengthen and enhance downtown areas by incentivizing rehabilitation and construction in designated Downtown Development Districts in amounts not to exceed 20 percent of the total project cost. In addition, up to \$1.0 million of this funding may be used for local downtown grants in amounts not to exceed \$150,000 per locality in a one year period.
- \$3.1 million for the Riverfront Development Corporation.
- \$3.0 million for the Delaware Cyber Initiative (DCI). This initiative will be a partnership between the State's higher education institutions, the private sector and the State to develop a workforce and research location targeting the area of cyber security. There is a significant need for trained cyber security graduates critical to large financial services and military employers important to the region. This funding will assist in the planning, design and start-up costs of DCI on the STAR campus.

- \$2.0 million to leverage Federal Research and Development Matching grants. This program will offer funding support to federally sponsored research grant proposals developed by Delaware State University, Delaware Technical and Community College and the University of Delaware.
- \$1.0 million for the Fraunhofer Center for Molecular Biotechnology (CMB) Vaccine Development. This funding is intended to create high-tech, high-impact jobs, spin-off businesses, new partnerships and alliances and enable CMB to leverage its unique technologies in the biotech marketplace.
- \$1.0 million for the second year of a five-year commitment to the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (DE-CTR) initiative. DE-CTR will enable partner institutions (University of Delaware, Christiana Care and Nemours) to develop new methods to translate research discoveries to community health settings and will leverage \$20.0 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health.
- \$1.0 million in state match for the first-year of a five-year commitment to the IDEa Network of Biomedical Research Excellence program. This program is designed to build a statewide infrastructure in facilities for research into cancer, neuroscience and cardiovascular diseases.
- \$1.0 million to promote and support various forms of experiential learning as a workforce development tool. The Department of Labor may utilize public-private partnerships to provide hands-on training, certificate completion, mentoring and college credit in various occupational fields, such as mechanics and manufacturing.
- \$800,000 for the second year of a five-year commitment for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research - Research Infrastructure Improvement (EPSCoR-RII) initiative. EPSCoR-RII provides infrastructure to support research and educational programs for Delaware's water and energy challenges and will leverage \$20.0 million in funding from the National Science Foundation.

## Investing in Delaware's Schools and in Youth

The Governor's Recommended Operating Budget and Bond and Capital Improvements Act provide critical resources to the State's schools and teachers to address the educational needs of Delawareans.

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- \$19.0 million to fully fund a projected growth of 220 units for school year 2014-2015.
- \$9.5 million to fund salary steps for school and Delaware Technical and Community College employees.
- \$5.6 million for a projected increase in expenditures for the Division III - Equalization and Academic Excellence appropriations.
- \$2.5 million for a projected increase in expenditures for Pupil Transportation.
- \$1.8 million for College and Career Readiness initiatives intended to provide opportunities and support for students during high school years that lead to increased college readiness and matriculation.
  - \$1.5 million for the College Access Challenge Grant. This funding will provide targeted support to high school students demonstrating college readiness by exploring career development, and in the process of applying to college, securing financial aid and enrolling in a two or four year college; and
  - \$300,000 for Dual Enrollment. This funding will create incentives for students to progress to college by providing opportunities to earn college credits before completion of their senior year of high school.
- \$1.7 million for Teacher and Leader Development initiative. This initiative is designed to increase the effectiveness of public education professionals by providing job embedded coaching for educators; providing data tools, system and supports to make data-driven resource decisions; and providing leadership development opportunities for principals to enhance their evaluation skills.
- \$1.2 million for the third year increase to education paraprofessional pay scales.
- \$250,000 to establish a Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS) Re-Entry program. This intensive aftercare program will support the transition and reintegration of youth returning to the community from YRS facilities.
- \$250,000 for a predictive model, which will allow the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families to make better informed intervention and placement decisions.
- \$92.6 million for Public Education capital projects. Included is Minor Capital Improvements funding and funding for projects in the Laurel, Polytech, Red Clay, Capital, Cape Henlopen, Milford, Lake Forest, New

Castle County Vocational Technical, Smyrna and Indian River school districts.

- \$16.5 million for capital projects at Delaware State University, Delaware Technical and Community College and the University of Delaware.

## Health and Self Sufficiency for Delawareans

- \$24.0 million for projected growth in the Medicaid program.
- \$5.6 million for placements in the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services comprised of:
  - \$1.8 million for special school graduates. This funding will support an estimated 175 additional special school graduates to be placed in community day programs and supported employment; and
  - \$3.8 million for Community and Residential placements. These funds will allow additional individuals with developmental disabilities to reside in a neighborhood group home, apartment or adult foster care.
- \$3.6 million for community based services for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness.
- \$2.0 million for Substance Use Disorder Services. Using national best practices, these funds will support enhanced assessment, monitoring and individualized treatment to those grappling with addiction.
- \$1.3 million for the Nurse Family Partnership program. This program is targeted at the children of low-income, first-time mothers and provides an intense series of home visits from registered nurses with specialized training in pre-natal and infant care.

## Ensuring Public Safety

- \$3.0 million to complete funding for a new Delaware State Police Troop 3 in Camden.
- \$1.7 million for renovations to the Delaware National Guard's 198th Readiness Center in Newport.
- \$400,000 for School Facility Access Control.
- \$315,900 for the replacement of Delaware State Police ballistic-resistant and specialty vests.
- \$265,300 to establish a Firearms Investigation Unit in the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. This unit will provide in-depth investigations for illegal firearm transactions and develop a statewide enforcement and oversight strategy to curtail the number of illegal firearms.