

STATE FISCAL STABILIZATION FUND IN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE ESSENTIAL FOR OHIOANS

These are the darkest days Ohio has seen in at least a generation. The unemployment rate in December was 7.6% with 20 Ohio counties posting unemployment rates of 10% or worse. Each day brings more job cuts and shocking stories of human need:

- Senior citizens living without heat
- Families made homeless by the recession
- Working parents with no safe place to leave their children
- People turning to a foodbank for the first time
- Families choosing between paying the mortgage and buying groceries

Without restoration of the \$40 billion in state aid to the Economic Recovery Package Ohio will be powerless to alleviate the suffering of our most vulnerable residents. The situation will get worse because thousands of people who work in social service programs will lose their jobs.

Ohioans need our Congressional representatives to make smart choices involving the Economic Recovery Package. Choices that will save almost 8,000 jobs we already have, strengthen our economy for the future, and support our fellow Ohioans who are struggling. One smart choice is to restore state aid in the Economic Recovery Package.

Here is what Ohioans could lose unless the \$40 billion in state aid is restored:

Basic Needs

- **Food supports** that more than **2 million** Ohioans need to survive.
- **Service jobs totaling 1,500** among people who work to provide emergency shelter, food, transportation, clothing, food stamps and Medicaid to those most in need.
- **Mental health services** for **26,000** people. These include abused and neglected children, people with bi-polar disorder and schizophrenia, people suffering from addiction, mothers with maternal depression, and people despondent over job loss. Cutting these mental health services would result in a loss of **2,600 to 3,120** jobs. Restoring funding would create 780 jobs.

Seniors

- Funding **1,652** families dealing with Alzheimers. **20-30** respite workers will lose their jobs.
- Slots numbering **5,177** for seniors in the **PASSPORT** program for a loss of **1,294** caregiver jobs.

Children

- **Health coverage** for **36,000** children.
- **Child care** for **20,846** already-enrolled children and closure of **348** child care centers that serve the poorest Ohio families. The closure of these centers would result in the loss of **2,085** jobs.
- Support for **6,000** children living in permanent **kinship** relationships with relatives who care for them.
- Medicaid, TANF and affordable housing services for **former foster care youth** who are transitioning to adulthood without family supports.
- **Adoption** subsidies that make it possible for families to adopt children with special needs who are desperately in need of homes.
- Funding for the **information and referral system** enabling families to find safe, appropriate child care and allows them to hold a job.

Youth Services

- An estimated **27- 30 community parole officers** who help keep youth on the right track and our communities safe.
- Treatment for **360 troubled Ohio teens**, resulting in **24** treatment professionals losing their jobs. If funding is restored, **62** new jobs could be created.
- The opportunity to serve **17,000** youth with evidenced-based **community programs** that are effective in reducing recidivism and could create **185** jobs.

Corrections

- **600** jobs gone in the Department of **Corrections**.
- Closure of **2** medium-sized **correctional facilities**.
- **Programs** that provide education and substance abuse recovery to inmates.

Higher Education

- **Tuition freezes** for Ohio public universities. Ohio will be required to **increase tuition** at all public universities.
- **Deep cuts** to financial aid. Across Ohio, children of working families will have to cut back on courses or leave college. This will shatter the hopes of families who are counting on their children to succeed and also mean Ohio's workforce of tomorrow will be less educated, less able, and less attractive to businesses looking for a location.