

## How You Can Help

- Spread the word, share our message with your membership
- Contact your federal representatives and senators
- Ask your membership to contact their federal representatives
- Contact your national associations, and share Ohio's priorities
- Visit your representatives and senators in Washington DC or the district

## What Ohio Needs in a Federal Recovery Package

At flat funding for FY2010-11, Ohio is projected to have a \$7.3 billion deficit. If each agency is funded at 90% for FY10-11, Ohio would still have a \$4.7 billion deficit for the coming biennium. Additionally, Ohio is facing a \$640 million deficit in the remaining portion of FY 2009.

Many governors, including Ohio's, must introduce their budgets in January and February 2009. Assistance is needed immediately if we are to avoid budgeting for and beginning to execute even more painful reductions. While infrastructure money would be welcomed, states also need flexibility to continue providing the important services they currently provide.

### **\$100 Billion in Block Grants to the States**

- Unless federal resources are provided, the severe nature of current and future shortfalls states are facing could have devastating consequences on core services states provide, including education (early care through higher education), healthcare, vaccinations, food safety, and other vital public health and safety net services. Additionally, if there were not block grants, job creation programs at the state level would likely be cut, undermining any federal stimulus effort.
- Giving states block grants to ensure that these services are not compromised and that states can continue to invest in education at all levels is a critical part of any recovery plan.

### **An Increase in Federal Matching Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid**

- During an economic downturn the number of people relying on Medicaid increases and Ohio's Medicaid roles will continue to grow.
- Increasing the share the federal government pays for Medicaid will free up state general revenue fund (GRF) dollars currently being used for the Medicaid program. This would greatly assist the state's efforts to provide and maintain access to healthcare services for vulnerable populations and free up GRF for other important services, including education, and job creation activities.

### **\$ 3.2 Billion in Additional TANF Funds to the States**

- TANF allows states and counties to meet the basic needs of low income families.
- Ohio will not have enough TANF resources to assist our neediest families in each of the coming years.
- Because there are currently fewer jobs available, TANF work requirements should also be waived during this time of recession.
- The state match to pull down these federal funds should be waived.

### **Other Types of Assistance That Would Benefit the State of Ohio**

- A temporary increase in food stamp benefits. For many families, food stamp benefits typically run out after the second or third week of the month, causing more and more families to turn to increasingly burdened soup kitchens and food pantries.
- Additional federal support for child support enforcement, reversing the federal cuts that were put in place in 2006.
- Increased federal funding for child care, including an increase to the Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start.
- Further investment in infrastructure, such as highways, water projects, public transit, rail, broadband and schools.