With the passage of House Bill 49 on June 30, 2017, the Department of Youth Services has its operating budget for Fiscal Years 2018-2019. As everyone is aware, this budget comes in challenging financial times for the State of Ohio; however, the Department is committed to maintaining its priorities both internally and in the community, even with reduced resources available. Following are key points on the DYS budget:

**Continued Support for Community Alternatives:**

- The Department’s operating budget is $228.1 million for FY 2018 and $231.9 million for FY 2019.

- Although this represents a reduction from the FY 2017 funding level of $231 million, there will be no employee lay-offs and funding will be maintained at FY 2017 levels for RECLAIM Ohio, Targeted and Competitive RECLAIM, Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice, and Community Corrections Facilities.

- Although RECLAIM Ohio (the variable portion of the Subsidy Grant) remains flat, HB 49 reflects a reduction of $417.6 thousand in the Youth Services Grant (the base portion of the Subsidy Grant) line item.

**Helping Incarcerated Youth Get on the Right Track:** The new budget supports safe and therapeutic environments at three state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and four alternative placements for incarcerated youth.

**Continued Commitment to Family Engagement:** The budget also prioritizes supporting families. By supporting positive relationships between youth and their families, DYS is strengthening relationships, helping families address ongoing issues in the home and empowering parents and guardians to hold youth accountable. Keeping families engaged in their youth’s treatment and programming increases the chances of rehabilitation, assists in transitioning the youth back into the community and ultimately helps the youth get on the right path.

**Ensuring Quality Education:** Several federal funding streams that support the Department’s school district are based on a per-pupil allocation. As the facility population has sharply decreased, so have federal funds for the education of DYS youth. The agency will meet the needs of its student population, which includes approximately half receiving special education services, through an additional $1 million per year in FY’2018, and $1.8 million per year in FY’2019 in general revenue funds to address the shift in cost that has occurred.