After several months of deliberations in the Ohio Legislature, Governor DeWine’s budget has been approved. And lawmakers agreed with DYS top priorities, changing very few of our requests.

We requested $238.4 million for FY20 and $247.5 million for FY21. Here’s how we’ll use these funds:

The Youth Services Grant increase of $417,567 and Competitive RECLAIM increase of $1,100,000 support the ability of juvenile courts and communities to hold youth accountable and protect public safety while meeting the complex needs of justice-involved youth, who may have a history of issues such as mental health, substance abuse, trauma, and family stability.

This budget will maintain resources for safe and habilitative environments at the three state-operated juvenile correctional facilities and four alternative placements, and sustain the ability of parole staff to supervise youth effectively in the community. Girls mental health treatment will receive an increase of $450,000.

In order to ensure that Community Corrections Facilities (CCFs) are maximized to divert appropriate felony youth from DYS, there will be an increase of $1,645,196 to CCFs in FY20 and a total increase of $2,300,103 by FY21 to allow CCFs to recruit and retain qualified staff by helping salary increases keep pace with state employees.
Indian River JCF offers an auto mechanics course to interested students, through a partnership with Stark State College.

The $141,000 vocational training increase will make investments for youth in job shortage areas, which in turn will help our challenged youth population to become self-sufficient and productive upon returning to the community. This will be done by building new partnerships with schools, community colleges, and the business community, as we recognize the role they play in job linkage and supporting reentry efforts for youth.

(L) Youth at Circleville JCF works in the print shop; (R) Youth at Cuyahoga Hills works in the horticulture program