

From the Desk of Sen. Roblin

Annex Roblin

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To: Senator Richard Devlin
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From: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer

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Subject: State Funded Programs for School-Aged Children

In addition to providing \$7.255 billion General Fund for the State School Fund, the budget funds a number of other programs directly impacting children. The following list highlights some of the major state expenditures benefitting school-aged children:

Human Services

- The Oregon Health Plan pays for physical and behavioral health care services for over 250,000 school-aged children each month. During the 2015-17 biennium, the cost to the state for these services is expected to be \$559 million, which leverages \$1.2 billion in federal funds, for a total of approximately \$1.8 billion.
- During the 2015-17 biennium, approximately \$77 million will be spent on outpatient and residential community mental health services. About 2,400 school-aged children will receive these services each month. These funds are spent on services not provided through the Oregon Health Plan.
- Alcohol and drug services to school-aged children, not provided through the Oregon Health Plan, will cost over \$4 million in 2015-17. Over 150 dependent children of parents in alcohol and drug treatment will receive services each month. In addition, these funds also provide for youth residential treatment services.
- Currently, there are 68 School-Based Health Centers in 20 counties, providing access to health care for over 52,000 school-aged children. During the 2013-14 school year, almost 24,000 children were served in over 70,000 visits. In addition, most centers have a mental health provider on site, and about 5,400 of the 24,000 children served received mental health services. These programs will cost about \$16 million in 2015-17.

- Child welfare programs support about 8,000 school-aged children, with services focused on improving family capacity to provide safe and permanent living environments. Services include foster care or other out-of-home placements, family supports, in-home safety plans, guardian and adoption assistance, and other wraparound services. During 2015-17, the state is expected to spend \$124 million General Fund, \$279 million total funds on these programs.
- During the 2015-17 biennium, self-sufficiency programs are expected to serve over 220,000 school-aged children at an estimated cost of \$133 million General Fund, \$1.4 billion total funds. Low-income children and their families receive assistance for basic needs, including food and shelter. These children also benefit from programs providing education, supports, and skill-building opportunities for themselves and their families.
- More than 3,800 school-aged children with intellectual or developmental disabilities receive services and programs focused on safety, independence, and community engagement. In 2015-17, about \$42 million General Fund, \$127 million total funds will be spent on programs focused on the needs of these children.
- Just under 200 school-aged children receive long-term care in nursing facilities through the Aging and People with Disabilities program. In the 2015-17 biennium, about \$6 million General Fund, \$16 million total funds are budgeted for these services.

Education (other than State School Fund)

- Over \$229.9 million General Fund and almost \$1.5 billion total funds is provided to school districts, ESDs and other entities for a number of services and programs for school-aged children, including special education, special services for students with disabilities, school lunch and other nutrition programs, professional development, CTE/STEM grants, programs to close the achievement gap, dual credit programs, physical education grants, and more.
- During 2015-17, it is expected that \$9.2 million General Fund and over \$19.2 million total funds will be used to provide services supporting academic success and promoting the connection between education and career opportunities.
- Approximately \$11.5 million General Fund and \$15.8 million total funds will be provided for the Oregon School for the Deaf to provide educational and residential services to students who have a hearing disability, often linked to other disabilities.
- Funding in the amount of \$18.7 million will cover the costs of educational services for students under the jurisdiction of the Oregon Youth Authority or county juvenile agencies. (A portion of this funding is transferred from the State School Fund.)

Housing

- The Emergency Housing program provides funds to help prevent and reduce homelessness and includes such services as emergency shelter, transitional housing, and

rapid rehousing. In addition, the State Homeless Assistance program uses state resources to support emergency shelters and the associated supportive services. Together, it is anticipated that in 2015-17 these programs will serve 9,625 children at a cost of approximately \$7.75 million General Fund, \$16.1 million total funds.

- During 2015-17, it is anticipated that \$2.3 million General Fund will be spent on the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program to serve approximately 4,800 Oregon children. The program trains volunteers to serve as advocates and fact finders for children under the protection of the state.
- Other programs in this area which use state resources to provide for the basic food and shelter needs of Oregonians, some of whom are children, include the Oregon Hunger Response Fund and the Low Income Rental Assistance program. It is difficult to know the exact number of school-aged children directly served by these programs; however, according to the Oregon Food Bank, 34% of the people accessing food through the network are households with children aged 17 years or younger. This equates to 342,475 food boxes going to households with children.

Oregon Youth Authority

- During the 2015-17 biennium, it is anticipated that approximately \$272 million General Fund and \$316.4 million total funds will be needed to maintain services to youth 10 to 20 years of age that are served by the Oregon Youth Authority. The agency exercises legal and physical custody of youth offenders committed to their authority and provides services to meet their physical, medical, educational, and other needs. The agency also provides direct assistance to Oregon counties through juvenile crime prevention, diversion, and gang intervention programs.

Other Program Examples

- The Oregon State Library spends \$1.4 million per biennium to provide grants to local libraries for reading programs for school-aged children.
- The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWB) awarded over \$521,000 in 2013-15 in outreach grants involving school-aged children, and has one more grant cycle remaining this biennium. All grants have a restoration focus as required by the constitutional language in Ballot Measure 76. The projects involving school-aged children are focused on the protection or restoration of native fish or wildlife habitats or of natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

