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Fiscal Year 2014 Budget: Recover. Rebuild. Restore.

Friday, June 28, 2013

Tags: [Budget and Spending](#)

"For the fourth year in a row, we've achieved a balanced budget that keeps New Jersey on solid fiscal ground, holds spending below 2008 levels and still funds critical initiatives that empower New Jerseyans. This year's budget provides \$213.5 million to support job-creating tax cuts, brings state aid to schools to a historic high, funds important drug treatment and mental health services and makes the largest pension payment in state history. Working together, we were able to put the people of New Jersey first and pass this budget early. I'm grateful to members of both parties for their leadership and willingness to get this done. Once again, Washington D.C. could take a lesson from the bipartisan example we have set here in New Jersey."

-Governor Chris Christie

Restoring Fiscal Sanity To Trenton With A

Fourth Consecutive Balanced Budget:

A Balanced Budget With A Responsible Surplus. For the fourth consecutive year, New Jersey will operate under a responsible spending plan, funding key priorities while ensuring New Jersey has the resources available for unforeseen circumstances. The fiscal year 2014 budget is a balanced \$32.9 billion plan which also provides for a responsible surplus of \$303 million.

Holding Spending Below Fiscal Year 2008 Levels. The fiscal year 2014 budget continues the commitment to never return to the reckless spending and fiscal irresponsibility in Trenton that brought New Jersey to the brink of catastrophe, holding spending below 2008 levels.

The Largest Pension Payment In State History. Building on the sweeping, bipartisan pension and benefit reforms and the commitment to restore solvency to New Jersey's pension system, the fiscal year 2014 budget makes a **\$1.676 Billion** payment to the state's pension funds.

A Smaller, More Efficient State Government. Acting on the commitment to build a more common-sense state government that works smarter and better, the fiscal year 2014 budget continues the government reorganization



begun in fiscal year 2013, focusing resources and services on the individual and, creating new reformed agencies to provide for the holistic needs of New Jersey's most vulnerable populations:

The Christie Administration has enhanced the ability of the Department of Children and Families to deliver a wider array of services by relocating the Division on Women within DCF, bringing together programs that benefit women and children into a more comprehensive and coordinated organization.

Governor Christie's efforts have resulted in a more efficient and streamlined state government. There are currently **5,600** fewer state government employees than when the Governor took office.

In order to focus resources on the most effective programs and maximize New Jersey's share of federal matching funds, funding distribution is

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calculated to reimburse hospitals based on the level and quality of care provided and for the first time, funding will be available to hospitals to reward innovation with the goal of improving healthcare outcomes.

As part of the Comprehensive Waiver approval, New Jersey was able to preserve \$128.3 million of fiscal year 2013 federal funding and provide hospitals with a transition period to migrate to the new funding pools. Similar to fiscal year 2013, the various hospital funds have been designed to ensure equity, transparency, predictability and accountability.

Historic Reductions In The Reliance On Non-Recurring Revenue. The last budget passed by Trenton prior to Governor Christie taking office relied on "one-shot" revenues for **13 percent** of its funding. For fiscal year 2014 non-recurring resources make up just **3.6 percent**.

Laying The Groundwork For New Jersey's Recovery:

A Contingency Fund For Super Storm Sandy Rebuilding. To ensure that New Jersey can move forward with the rebuilding process, a **\$40 million** contingency fund is established to ensure that expenses not reimbursed by the federal government can be met without reducing resources for other key priorities.

Training The New Jersey Heroes Of Tomorrow. Super Storm Sandy highlighted the bravery, professionalism and dedication of our state's emergency responders and medical personnel. To honor their service and to ensure New Jersey is always well-served by such heroes, the fiscal year 2014 budget includes \$750 per trainee in support for the training and development of the emergency medical personnel of tomorrow.

Investments In New Jersey's Future:

Job-Creating Business Tax Cuts. The fiscal year 2014 budget provides an additional **\$213.5 million** in business tax relief for a total of \$540 million in the third year of bipartisan, job-creating business tax cuts to help businesses remain and grow in New Jersey.

Providing Funding To Maintain Critical Programs In The Face Of A Federal Sequester. With uncertainty and partisan bickering dominating our nation's capital, the fiscal year 2014 budget dedicates **\$3 million** in funding to ensure that the budget sequestration does not impair the ability to provide critical services.

Two New Classes Of New Jersey State Troopers. The fiscal year 2014 budget provides **\$3.4 million** for the 154th and 155th Classes of State Troopers, ensuring that New Jersey State Police remains one of the nation's premier law enforcement agencies.

Historic Support For Education:

Historic State Funding For Schools. For the third year in a row, state spending to support education is increasing. New funding of approximately \$100 million brings total state aid to schools to nearly **\$9 billion**, marking the third year in a row of setting a historic high. No school district will receive less K-12 formula aid than the amount provided in fiscal year 2013.

A Continued Commitment To Higher Education:

The fiscal year budget provides an additional **\$35 million** in state funds for continued support of the Governor's historic higher education reorganization - \$18 million for Rowan University and \$17 million for University Hospital.

Financial assistance for the neediest college students paid through Tuition Aid Grants is increasing in fiscal year 2014. After increasing funding by \$31.5 million last year, the fiscal year 2014 budget includes an additional **\$17 million** for nearly \$353 million in total funding.

The fiscal year budget provides an additional **\$3 million** for county colleges across the state.

Fully Funding The Nation's Toughest Anti-Bullying Law. Following through on his signing of the nation's toughest anti-bullying law, Governor Christie has committed **\$1 million** in the fiscal year 2014 budget to support school districts' implementation of anti-bullying initiatives.

Expanding Health Care For New Jersey's Citizens:

Expanding Health Care Access Through Medicaid. Access to health care coverage will be expanded for New Jersey's most vulnerable citizens through Medicaid. New Jersey already has one of the most expansive and generous Medicaid programs in the nation, including the second highest eligibility rate for children. Expanding Medicaid will mean that more New Jerseyans at or near the poverty line will have access to critical health services, while saving New Jersey taxpayers approximately **\$227 million** in fiscal year 2014 alone. Nursing homes will see their Medicaid reimbursement increase by **\$10.3 million in state funding** (\$20.6 million with matching federal funds), providing them with additional resources as New Jersey begins its transition to managed long-term services and supports.

Bold And Innovative Medicaid Reform. Recognizing the Christie Administration's vision for bold and innovative Medicaid reform, New Jersey has received approval of its Comprehensive Medicaid Waiver. This waiver allows the state to move forward with Medicaid reforms that are already resulting in more compassionate and effective care for our state's most vulnerable residents and will help to preserve the program over the long term while at the same time reducing costs to New Jersey taxpayers.

Providing The Necessary Resources To Keep Safety-Net Hospitals Operating. Recognizing that all hospitals provide care to the uninsured and underinsured remains the principle behind hospital funding in fiscal year 2014. In order to focus resources on the most effective programs and maximize New Jersey's share of

federal matching funds, the funding distribution is calculated to reimburse hospitals based on the level and quality of care provided. For the first time, funding will be available to hospitals to reward innovation with the goal of improving healthcare outcomes. The fiscal year 2014 budget provides **\$966 million** in hospital funding.

Protecting Funding for Cancer Screening. The New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection Program provides cancer outreach, screening and follow-up services. The fiscal year budget provides a total of **\$12 million** in State and federal support.

New Funding For The State's Premier Cancer Facilities. The fiscal year 2014 budget provides **\$20 million** in new funding for cancer research and treatment and to support the state's premier cancer facilities – the Cancer Institute of New Jersey and the South Jersey Cancer Program.

Expanding Screenings For All Newborns. With state investment and implementation of Emma's Law, every baby born in New Jersey is eligible to be screened for 60 disorders that can cause serious health problems. The fiscal year 2014 budget increases funding for newborn screening by more than **\$1.6 million**.

Increasing Funding For Compassionate Care. Governor Christie has taken a responsible approach to administering medical marijuana for select New Jerseyans. Following the opening of the first medical marijuana dispensary, the fiscal year 2014 budget increases funding by **\$823,000**.

A Firm Commitment To Our State's Most Vulnerable Citizens:

Building On Commitment To Individuals With Developmental Disabilities Or Behavioral Health Disorders.

Governor Christie has long spoken of the state's moral imperative to recognize the unique needs of every New Jerseyans with a developmental disability or behavioral health disorder and is committed to helping them lead fuller lives. The fiscal year 2014 budget increases funding by **\$95.8 million** for community placements and related services.

Expansion Of The Drug Court Program. Last year, Governor Christie signed into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to help individuals with drug addiction reclaim their lives with treatment, rather than warehousing them in prison. In fiscal year 2014, funding for addiction treatment services increases by **\$4.5 million**.

Greater Support For Veterans Haven North. The Christie Administration is providing greater support for the expanded Veterans Haven program, a pair of facilities for homeless veterans. The Governor's budget increases the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) funding to **\$644,000** as the north facility continues to move toward full occupancy.

Increasing Support For Uninsured Children. The fiscal year 2014 budget continues to demonstrate a commitment to providing subsidized health coverage for uninsured children. New Jersey has been recognized for performance excellence in enrolling children in the NJ FamilyCare program. Funding for children in NJ FamilyCare in this year's budget will support coverage for more than **164,000** children while saving \$227 million for New Jersey taxpayers.

Giving Families The Tools To Succeed. Family Success Centers are community-based grassroots organizations that provide services to meet basic needs ranging from day care and parenting classes to more complex needs such as accessing mental health support, domestic violence prevention and substance abuse services. The fiscal year 2014 budget reaffirms this commitment with **\$9.7 million** in state funds along with \$2.5 million in federal funds. The number of Family Success Centers in New Jersey has increased from 42 to **50**.

Giving Community Providers Necessary Support. An additional **\$13.2 million** in cross-departmental funding to community providers, including mental health, developmental disabilities and child care.

Taking Care Of Our Seniors:

Ensuring The Safety And Dignity Of Seniors. To ensure that timely and thorough investigations continue in all cases of suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation, an additional **\$1 million** is available for Adult Protective Services agencies located throughout the state.

Continued Funding For The Senior And Disabled Citizens' Property Tax Freeze. The **\$214.2 million** included in the fiscal year 2014 budget will continue to allow benefits to grow for over 159,000 current beneficiaries. It will also allow an expected 34,000 new seniors and citizens with disabilities to claim their first year of benefits.

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