

Tuscarawas County

Impact of the 2012-13 state budget (HB 153)

Ohio's budget for 2012 and 2013 cut local government aid by a billion dollars. This means cuts in services we depend on, from road repair and emergency services to crossing guards, senior transportation and child protective services. What are the implications for Tuscarawas County?

The state cut the Local Government Fund to the county, forcing Tuscarawas County to make cuts to jurisdictions within the county. The state also cut direct funding to municipalities, and slashed reimbursements for taxes it had eliminated, taxes that businesses and utilities had paid to local governments. School districts and the public library fund were also cut. Losses in calendar years 2012 and 2013, compared to 2010 and 2011, include, among others:

- Public Library Fund - \$156.0 thousand
- Schools - \$8.0 million
- County operations (including LGF for townships) - \$3.3 million
- Dover - \$751.0 thousand
- New Philadelphia - \$795.0 thousand
- Uhrichsville - \$235.0 thousand

Loss to health and human service levies:

- County Mental health/ Developmental disabilities - \$676.0 thousand
- County Senior Services - \$113.0 thousand
- General Health District - \$135.0 thousand

Notes and quotes

“Tobacco cessation funding was lost, thus programs were lost. We had lost it locally before but could at least refer to the state Quit Line. Now funding on the state level is gone as well.”— Deb Crank, health educator, Tuscarawas County Health Department. From Kneuss, Jennifer, “Health district provides many services for Tuscarawas County residents,” *Holmes County Journal*, January 26, 2012. <http://bit.ly/OXgnE>.

Key findings

- Tuscarawas County, its jurisdictions, schools, services and levies lost \$14.8 million in the current state budget.
- Health and human services lost \$924 thousand.
- Job & Family Services wanted to provide foster kids with a gift when they graduate from high school, but budget cuts prevented that this year.
- Faced with a \$200,000 budget shortfall, Uhrichsville city officials were faced with service reductions, and potentially closing down the police department.
- 1,500 local government jobs lost in the Youngstown MSA since 2006.

“The city’s budget has been tight for years. We review every purchase, but that may only save hundreds of dollars, not thousands. We can’t make up a \$200,000 shortfall by taking money out of office supplies.” – Rob Stewart, Uhrichsville City Council Finance Committee Chairman. From Morrison, Lee, “Uhrichsville facing police, union budget cuts,” *Times-Reporter*, March 29, 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9zocoka>.

In 2011, the Tuscarawas County YMCA offered a service to diabetics that provided information on eating, physical exercise and activity that the 2012 budget cuts forced it to postpone. The Tuscarawas County United Way, however, provided funding for similar classes in 2012 that expanded services to all interested participants. From “Tuscarawas County YMCA,” *Times-Reporter Outlook 2012*, <http://tinyurl.com/9dk245x>.

Faced with a \$200,000 budget shortfall, Uhrichsville city officials are considering service reductions and potentially abolishing the police department. From Morrison, Lee, “Uhrichsville facing police, union budget cuts,” *Times-Reporter*, March 29, 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9zocoka>.

Fraternal Order of Police union offered salary reductions, decreases in workweek and vacation days per week in an attempt to save their jobs. From Morrison, Lee, “Uhrichsville facing police, union budget cuts,” *Times-Reporter*, March 29, 2012, <http://tinyurl.com/9zocoka>.

NOTES: The current state budget cuts the **Local Government Fund** to counties, municipalities and townships by 25 percent in the first year and by 50 percent in the second year. This 77-year old state revenue sharing program has, for generations, been essential to helping Ohio communities fund schools, provide services, and lift people out of poverty. The current state budget also phases out most of the **tangible personal property tax** and **public utility property tax reimbursements**, which were promised to local governments when the state cut taxes in recent years. These are not the only losses to local governments because of this budget. There are others in specific programs. Here we detail some of the bigger shifts. Change in revenues shown here include:

- **Local Government Fund "County Undivided Fund,"** which counties share with their cities, townships and villages. We show how much less money the counties are receiving under the current 2-year state budget (for 2012 and 2013) compared to the two years under the prior state budget (which was for 2010 and 2011). Here the funds are shown on a calendar year basis because that is how the tax department forecasts and records their distribution to local governments, and it is how local governments’ budget (The state budget is based on the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30);
- **Local Government “Municipal Direct” allocation** from the Local Government Fund that the state gives directly to localities. This is also shown in terms of funding provided in the calendar years 2012 and 2013 compared to 2010 and 2011;
- **Property tax reimbursements** promised to local governments during tax reductions enacted earlier in the decade. The loss of funding in calendar years 2012 and 2013 is compared to the level of funding provided in 2010 and 2011. The figures for changes in funding levels are based on data provided by and spreadsheets online at the Ohio Department of Taxation for local government funds and tax reimbursement distributions.

