

## Federal Sequester Keeps Hitting Ohio

### Cuts to Head Start, summer lunches, senior services, R&D

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Across all levels of public services and government entities in Ohio, from Army bases to Head Start centers, from university research labs to senior transportation services, our state stands to lose \$184 million in 2013 relative to 2012 as a result of changes in federal appropriations and automatic, across-the-board federal budget cuts that went into effect earlier this year as a result of U.S. congressional action.

Also known as the sequester, these cuts are causing new damage every month, and will continue to hurt Ohio as they deepen over the next nine years. This brief gives new examples of how the sequester has begun to hurt Ohio.

- The supplemental nutrition program, Women, Infants and Children, will be cut by more than \$8 million. While much of that cut is being absorbed by the Ohio Department of Health, other state programs are being eliminated, including testing for West Nile virus.
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services received notice that its Federal Social Services Block Grant (Title XX) will be reduced by \$2.2 million across Ohio's 88 counties. This is a critical source of revenue for local human services, and will hurt everything from child welfare to senior services. The appendix to this brief, available online at [policymattersohio.org/sequester-jun2013](http://policymattersohio.org/sequester-jun2013), contains the county-by-county impact of the cuts.
- The Coalition for Human Needs anticipates that Ohio's schools will lose \$25.2 million in Title I funds for disadvantaged children, harming 99 schools and 346 staff serving more than 34,000 students. An Ohio Department of Education spokesperson said impacts will not begin until the coming school year (2013-14).
- Fifty-three children will be removed from the Head Start program in Lorain County as the agency loses \$319,472 in federal funding.
- Furlough notices have gone out to workers at the Defense Supply Centers in Columbus and Cleveland.

#### Key findings

- Nutritional programs for families, children cut; AmeriCorps summer feeding program loses 135 slots.
- Senior transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores cut.
- Ohio's public universities set to lose nearly \$95 million.
- Up to 2,500 kids to be cut from Head Start in Ohio; 53 already dropped in Lorain County.
- Employee furloughs at defense centers start this month.

Automatic across-the-board federal cuts will harm Ohio children, families, seniors, workers, and the economy as a whole, and the consequences will be long lasting. Ohio's elected officials, both at the state and federal levels, should take steps to restore these important services.