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## 2015 Platform Goals and Budget Realities

2015 Platform (created July 2015)	Approved FY 2016-17 budget	Comments and Grade
<p><b>Revenue</b></p> <p>1. The State needs additional revenue generation in order to maintain crucial State services. NOBLE advocates revenue generation in any of the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Tax loopholes, which each year adds up to more than \$7 billion, should each be closely reviewed. Those exemptions and credits that have outlived their usefulness or are inequitable should be eliminated.</li> <li>b. We cannot have a reduction in income tax rates. We should reinstate the 7.5% tax rate for income over \$208,000.</li> <li>c. Re-establish the Corporate Franchise Tax, and strengthen corporate taxes to restore balance between individuals/families and corporations.</li> <li>d. The State should increase its severance tax on oil &amp; gas companies so that it is comparable to neighboring states.</li> <li>e. All senior homeowners who make less than \$50,000 a year should be eligible for the Homestead Exemption.</li> <li>f. The State should reestablish the Estate Tax.</li> <li>g. Restore the Property Tax Rollback of 12.5%</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revenue: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Owners of most businesses don't have to pay income tax on 75% of their first \$250,000 of business income taxation in 2015 and all of the first 250,000 after that.</li> <li>2. Business owners will pay a flat 3% tax on income over \$250,000.</li> <li>3. A 35 cent tax increase on a pack of cigarettes.</li> <li>4. The FY 16/17 budget will include a 6.3% across the board income tax cut.</li> <li>5. A tax study commission will be formed that will recommend what to do with the severance tax, review tax credits and examine how to move Ohio to a flat income tax.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revenue</b></p> <p>The FY16/17 budget is a continuation of the regressive tax policies from the FY14/15 budget. With a 6.3% reduction in the personal income tax rate, low income individuals will see a greater share of their take home pay go toward taxes while Ohio's wealthiest will see a tax reduction.</p> <p>While we are glad to see an increase in revenue from the cigarette tax increase, low income individuals on average will see a greater share of their take home pay. We are disappointed that this increase will be used to fund the income and business tax cut within this bill.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>

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<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The State maintain the Housing Trust Fund and keep the existing funding source - the Recordation Fee - so that it will continue to support affordable, accessible housing.</li> <li>The State should create a department that aids and assists communities to address foreclosure prevention</li> </ol> <p><b>Fees</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any person receiving public assistance should have their fees rolled back to 2008 levels for essential documents such as a birth certificate and driver's license.</li> <li>For low income Ohioans for whom essential living documents prove to be unaffordable, we recommend that these documents be provided at no charge.</li> <li>Create an income based scale for essential living documents.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Housing: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ol> <p><b>Fees: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fees were maintained at their current rate.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Housing</b></p> <p>Although the Senate moved to cut the Housing Trust Fund 50%, funding was ultimately maintained.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: A</b></p> <p><b>Fees</b></p> <p>Fees were not discussed in this budget.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>K-12 education should avoid cutbacks that jeopardize the quality of the school system (keeping in mind the DeRolph decision) and that put additional financial pressure on local school districts.</li> <li>The State Legislature should establish an open bipartisan panel to restructure funding for higher education and work to avoid an unequal burden on families so that a college degree is accessible to those of moderate income. We further encourage the Legislature to research what is working elsewhere and bring those ideas which work to Ohio.</li> <li>Proceeds from the State Lottery are by law designated to K-12 public education. These dollars must be in addition to the budget proposed by the 2015 Platform (created</li> </ol>	<p><b>Education: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorizes E-schools (on-line charter schools) to receive facilities funding at \$25 per pupil.</li> <li>Maintains the ability of sponsors to access facility and levy dollars.</li> <li>While foundation funding, the primary source of school funding is up in this budget, the overall funding for education has decreased in this budget from \$23.3 to \$21.9 billion.</li> <li>A two - year tuition freeze was imposed on public universities.</li> <li>Requires colleges to propose ways to reduce student costs by 5%.</li> <li>State Share of Instruction was increased from \$3.6 to \$3.9 billion</li> <li>Need - based aid through the Ohio College Opportunity Grant will receive a \$30 million increase in funding.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Although there were positives in higher education with increases in funding and a tuition freezes for all public universities, the loss of money for K - 12 education in reimbursements such as the TPP are largely negative resulting in communities scrambling to find additional funding to meet the needs left by this funding gap.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>

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<p>November 2014 Governor and ultimately passed by the Legislature.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Charter schools should return monies on a prorated basis if any student returns to a public school during the school year.</li> <li>5. Charter schools should be held to the same academic standards as public schools.</li> <li>6. Tuition rates for state funded schools should be frozen at a 2% rate for the duration of the budget.</li> <li>7. The State should match Federal funding for K-12 education.</li> <li>8. Art, music, school nurses and physical education should be mandated in all Ohio K-12 schools.</li> </ol>		
<p><b>Health and Human Services</b></p> <p><b>A. Accessibility</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide adequate resources to Counties for sufficient staff for food stamps, cash assistance, and other programs in order to handle increased demand and prevent delays and obstacles to service.</li> <li>2. State uses the full amount of Federal dollars allocated to allow Counties to reduce caseload sizes of caseworkers.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Health and Human Services: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <p><b>A. Accessibility: Past Budget Action</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An additional \$118 million in federal TANF and WOIA funding for county admin.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Health and Human Services</b></p> <p>A. Accessibility</p> <p>There were additional dollars added to fund administrative services it bears watching if the state and counties will use all of its federal dollars to administer services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: Incomplete</b></p>
<p><b>B. Child Care</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Full restoration of per diem rates (reimbursement) for child care providers of eligible families.</li> <li>2. Reimbursement rates must reflect the cost of care on a County by County basis.</li> <li>3. Eligibility should be returned to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and eligibility be maintained for one full year after it has been established to assure stability and continuous educational programming for</li> </ol>	<p><b>B. Child Care &amp; Children Services: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Child Protective Services will receive \$3.2 million.</li> <li>2. The budget provides \$222 million for FY 2016 and \$213 million for FY 2017. A decrease in funding from FY14/15.</li> <li>3. The budget expands the childcare subsidy to families up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Copays were eliminated for those under the federal poverty level.</li> </ol>	<p><b>B. Child Care</b></p> <p>Funding for this program stayed stagnant which in the big picture is a loss due to inflation, but the expansion of childcare subsidies up to 300% of the federal poverty level, the small increase to Child Protective Services and the elimination of copays can only be seen as a plus.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: C+</b></p>

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<p>children (kinder garden readiness) can be maintained when their parents are in between jobs or when mothers go on maternity leave.</p>		
<p><b>C. Kinship Care/Foster Care</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide statewide support for the Kinship Navigator Program.</li> <li>2. For children aging out of the foster care system, increase State funding to Counties for the support and development of independent living, education, housing, and training programs.</li> <li>3. Create financial parity between kinship care and foster care.</li> <li>4. Eliminate the ceiling for the kinship care allotment from the current maximum of four children.</li> <li>5. Disregard adults' income when calculating food stamp eligibility for kinship care families.</li> <li>6. Increase the annual monthly per capita by the amount of the annual Social Security cost of living adjustment (COLA).</li> <li>7. Financial payments are made available throughout the placement of our grandchildren, nieces, nephews or siblings.</li> </ol>	<p><b>C. Kinship Care/Foster Care: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. \$3.5 million will be earmarked each fiscal year for the KPI Program. A 16% decrease from the last budget.</li> </ol>	<p><b>C. Kinship Care/Foster Care</b></p> <p>Kinship nor Foster Care received additional money in this budget with Kinship actually losing money. Kinship Care Providers will still be paid less on a per child basis than this that provide for foster children. Although there are still funding gaps in these programs, a committee has been formed to further examine this issue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>
<p><b>D. Care for Older Populations and People with Disabilities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain the current funding formula for all local Offices on Aging and Senior Centers.</li> <li>2. Funding for Adult Protective Services should be maintained and/or increased to \$10 million for each year of the Biennium Budget. Current need is between \$11.5 and 18.4 million per year.</li> <li>3. Maintain and/or increase the Alzheimer's</li> </ol>	<p><b>D. Care for Older Populations and People with Disabilities 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adult Protective Services was increased by nearly 500% to \$2.6 million in FY 16-17</li> <li>2. Dept. of Developmental Disabilities will receive spending increases of \$112 million above estimated FY15 levels adding 3,000 new waiver slots.</li> <li>3. The budget provides a 6% increase for reimbursement rates for those providing</li> </ol>	<p><b>D. Care for Older Populations and People with Disabilities</b></p> <p>While we saw a nearly \$2.1 million increase to Adult Protective Services; increases in home provider rates; and increases to Developmental Disabilities, the fact that this budget allows for APS to be privatized is not a positive development.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: C</b></p>

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<p>Respite line item which provides an average of \$200 per month to help caregivers.</p> <p>4. Home care service should be given at minimum a Cost of Living Adjustment increase of 3%.</p> <p>5. Fund the Community Service line item to match money provided by the Older Americans Act line item.</p> <p><b>People With Disabilities</b></p> <p>6. Invest in Vocational Rehab programs. Increase General Revenue Fund to draw down the full available Federal match.</p> <p>7. Invest in community organizations to build capacity to deliver employment sources and educate employers.</p> <p>8. Workforce Development: Reform existing workplace programs to provide meaningful work opportunities for seniors and people with disabilities. Ensure availability of work support services.</p> <p>9. Explore feasibility and impact on Ohio--i.e. Implementation of Community First Choice Option.</p> <p>10. Support 70/30 funding level for HCBS (Home and Community Based Waivers by:</p> <p>a. Increasing rates in Balancing Incentive Payment Programs.</p> <p>b. Invest in communities and collaborative efforts to build capacity or organization to deliver aging and disability resource center and supports.</p>	<p>homemaker and personal care waiver services.</p> <p>4. The budget now allows for the privatization of adult protective services.</p> <p>5. Alzheimer's Respite will receive \$500,000 each fiscal year.</p>	
<p><b>E. Health Care and Medicaid</b></p> <p>1. Reauthorize Medicaid Expansion at 138% of the Federal Poverty Level without qualifications.</p> <p>2. Maintain funding for the Ohio Free Clinics and 2015 Platform (created November 2014</p>	<p><b>E. Health Care and Medicaid: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <p>1. \$200 million will be transferred from the GRF in FY17 to fund the newly created Health and Human Service Fund.</p> <p>2. The budget includes \$15 million in FY16 and \$30.4 million in FY17 to maintain</p>	<p><b>E. Health Care and Medicaid</b></p> <p>Medicaid Expansion funding was maintained at 138% of the federal poverty level. This is a huge win for low income Ohioans. One must caution however that the Legislature has asked the Governor to apply for a federal waiver that would</p>

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<p>Health and Human Services Continuation and Federally Qualified Health Centers</p> <p>3. Maintain services and funding for traditional Medicaid.</p> <p><b>Alcohol &amp; Other Drugs/Mental Health Services</b></p> <p>4. Restore full \$100 million over 2 years to community based services.</p> <p>5. Fully fund Recovery Oriented System of Care.</p> <p>* Employment</p> <p>* Peer Services and Supports</p> <p>* Detox/Medication assisted treatment</p> <p>* Health Promotion: Early detection, identification and intervention,</p> <p>6. Support efforts to achieve appropriate State funding for community behavioral health support services, and obtain parity in Board funding throughout the State.</p> <p>7. Retain \$10 million that the Ohio Department of Mental Health &amp; Addiction Services wants to take from community funding (Boards) for State hospitals.</p>	<p>Medicaid coverage for pregnant women at 200% of the federal poverty level and women in need of treatment for breast and cervical cancer.</p> <p>3. The budget provides \$5.0 million in FY16 and \$6.5 million in FY 17 for the Health Buckeye Grant Pilot Program.</p> <p>4. The budget calls for the administration to Apply for a waiver for those on Medicaid. The waiver requires these adults to pay premiums or will be locked out of coverage for failure to pay.</p> <p>5. Alcohol, drug addiction, and mental health services will be moved into Medicaid managed care, known as "carving - in". All services must be carved in by Jan 1, 2018.</p> <p>6. The amount of time and individual may participate in the state funded component of PASSPORT will no longer be 90 days but will be determined Director of the Dept. of Aging in rules.</p> <p>7. Medicaid Expansion for single individuals up to 138% of the federal poverty level was maintained.</p> <p>8. Eliminates the provision for the Medicaid funded component of PASSPORT eligibility to an individual who is no longer eligible but still needs home and community based services.</p>	<p>create health savings account and premiums. This is something that will need monitoring.</p> <p>Drug and Mental Health Services were largely kept whole.</p> <p>While it has yet to be determined what impact the change in funding due to MyCare Ohio funded counties will have on serve, this program overall still does not receive the money that it needs to administer the care needed. With provider rates not keeping up with the cost of doing business, we are seeing providers go out of business or not take business from Medicaid for aging services.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: C</b></p>
<p><b>F. Cash Assistance</b></p> <p>1. Extend Cash Assistance to 5 years as allowed by existing Federal law from 3 years.</p> <p>2. Restore the Family Violence Option.</p> <p>3. Provide additional funding support for family's cash assistance by increasing the current base and adding an annual Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).</p>	<p><b>F. Cash Assistance: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <p>1. The budget provides \$152.8 million for FY 16 and FY 15.</p> <p>2. The Supplemental Food Assistance Program recipients are required to participate in certain work activities consistent with federal work and employment training requirements.</p>	<p><b>F. Cash Assistance</b></p> <p>Funding for this program has been largely stagnant. Since the FY 14/15 budget assistance has been harder to obtain due to federal work requirements being added.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>

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<p><b>G. Food Assistance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio should fully participate in waiver programs so that food stamps are available for all non- senior adults without minor children who meet the income requirements.</li> <li>Support Ohio Association of Foodbanks request for \$40 million (\$20 million each year) to continue the grant agreement for the Ohio Food Program and Agricultural Clearance Program (OFPACP). The State funding directs food supplies to millions of Ohioans through the State's network of 12 Feeding America food banks and more than 3,300 food pantries and soup kitchens including purchased surplus or unmarketable products from Ohio farmers.</li> </ol>	<p><b>G. Food Assistance: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food banks will receive no less than \$19.75 million each year in funding over the course of the FY 16-17 budget.</li> </ol>	<p><b>G. Food Assistance</b></p> <p>Food banks will receive close to the asked funding allotment of \$19 million for each fiscal year. While the need continues to grow for this program, the state has slowly closed the gap in terms of funding needs.</p> <p>In addition, these dollars will come from TANF funds which could be detrimental to seniors and households without children.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: B</b></p>
<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a State commission that includes community actors to explore the economic impact of expanding public transit to more suburban and rural areas.</li> <li>Public transportation funding should become a line item in the ODOT Budget with funding supported at least 5% of the budget.</li> <li>Transportation for people with disabilities must be maintained so that these individuals can be productive, independent members of society.</li> <li>Provide employers with incentives or a tax break that offer and encourage their employees to ride public transportation to and from work.</li> <li>Create a fund that supports organizations that provide transportation for elderly citizens.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Transportation: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The transportation budget provides funding of \$3.47 billion in FY 16 and \$3.59 billion in FY 17. This measure does not provide any additional State funding for public transportation.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Transportation</b></p> <p>Funding for transportation decreased in this budget. In addition, funding for public transportation stayed level despite an ODOT study recommendation for increased funding of a half a billion for public transit.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>

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<p><b>Local Government Fund</b></p> <p>1. Increase the Local Government Fund to 2010 levels to adequately fund police, fire, EMS, sanitation and other services at the City and County level.</p>	<p><b>Local Government Fund: 2016/17 Budget</b></p> <p>1. In FY 16/17 the Local Government Fund will continue to share 1.66% of the total GRF revenues in FY16 and FY17.</p> <p>2. The cap on the rainy day fund will go up from 5% to 8.5% of the General Revenue Fund</p> <p>3. The budget further reduces reimbursements to local communities and schools for lost revenue from the Tangible Personal Property Tax(TPP), which was phased out starting in 2005. This will cost local communities vital funding for human services. Appropriations for these reimbursements are reduced from \$127.6 million in FY15 to \$66.1 million in FY16 and \$40.4 million for FY17, decreases of 48.2% and 38.8% respectively.</p>	<p><b>Local Government Fund</b></p> <p>The budget eliminates the Tangible Personal Property reimbursements from the state to the cities which is a huge loss for many communities. Many of these dollars have historically been used for vital services and to offset various school funding deficiencies.</p> <p>Although there was an increase in funding for Ohio libraries, the continued loss of funding for local governments slowly shifts the responsibility more heavily onto local governments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GRADE: F</b></p>