

LT. GOVERNOR ANTHONY G. BROWN FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown understand the toll the national recession has placed on Maryland's families. They share a belief, however, that during bad times more must be done to get better so that during better times Maryland can be the best. Governor O'Malley introduced a balanced budget that protects Maryland's priorities. This session, Lt. Governor Brown will work with the General Assembly to protect funding for Veterans, BRAC priorities, higher education and programs for victims of domestic abuse.

Veterans:

Fund Veterans Behavioral Health

- \$2.8 million dedicated in fiscal year 2010
- \$1.3 million proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: The Veterans Behavioral Health program was created through legislation in 2008 and aims to eliminate gaps in services by providing crisis intervention, case management, improved outreach and direct health-related services to veterans. The program also further increases coordination among state and federal government agencies for veterans who have served in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts.

Protect Scholarship Funding for Returning Veterans and Dependents

- \$750,000 allocated in fiscal year 2010
- \$750,000 proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: The scholarship program helps veterans and their dependent family members reach their educational goals through scholarship programs. The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) funds the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program and provides financial assistance for postsecondary education for eligible veterans and their families.

BRAC Readiness/Workforce Creation

Fund BRAC Zone Tax Incentives

- No allocation during fiscal year 2010
- \$300,000 proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: The authorization to designate BRAC Zones was established with Governor O'Malley's signing of the BRAC Community Enhancement Act in 2008. All jurisdictions are eligible to apply for BRAC Zone designation, with priority given to areas that are served by public transportation and have the greatest capacity for economic growth. Local jurisdictions may use financial incentives offered through the BRAC Zone program to directly fund infrastructure improvements in the designated area or indirectly fund such improvements by repaying Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Bonds or other bonds that have been issued for such infrastructure improvements.

Fund Maryland Higher Education Commission BRAC Fund

- \$865,000 allocated in fiscal year 2010
- \$865,000 proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: The BRAC Higher Education Fund allocates funding through the Maryland Higher Education Commission to help colleges and universities develop programs to meet the needs of relocated federal

military and civilian personnel, their families and contractors that are expected due to the Department of Defense decision to relocate military facilities throughout Maryland. Funds may be used for a variety of purposes: to expand regional learning centers; establish new academic programs for BRAC personnel and their families; and hire more faculty and staff.

Protect Proposed Capital Funding for Community Colleges

- \$87.5 million allocated in fiscal year 2010
- \$81.2 million proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: Capital projects help community colleges keep pace with growing enrollment, especially from underserved populations. Community colleges play an integral role in creating a well-trained and competitive workforce in Maryland. The O'Malley-Brown administration has invested more in capital projects at community colleges than any previous administration.

Public Safety and Public Health

Establish Grant Funding for Domestic Violence (DOVE) Program

- No allocation during fiscal year 2010
- \$150,000 proposed in fiscal year 2011

Purpose: The Domestic Violence Program (DOVE) at Northwest Hospital Center is one of only five hospital-based domestic violence intervention programs in Maryland. As a potential first responder to victims of domestic violence, the program facilitates routine screening for domestic violence and victims of abuse with information on safety planning, shelter and legal options, as well as crisis counseling, advocacy and referrals for continuing support services.