

# Quality of Life

## K-12 Education

- ( The FY 2018 budget includes a record \$6.4 billion state investment in Maryland's public schools, fully funding all state aid programs. Direct aid to local schools grows by \$60.4 million or 1.1 percent. This is the third consecutive year that the Hogan-Rutherford administration has provided record education funding.
- ( As part of Governor Hogan's commitment to expanding education opportunities, he is creating the Maryland Education Innovation Fund, a \$1 million grant program to encourage innovation in the classroom.
- ( The Linking Youth to New eXperiences (LYNX) School in Frederick receives \$336,599 in FY 2018, enabling the pilot school to make apprenticeship a central focus of students' experiences and to provide them with additional opportunities to engage with businesses throughout high school.
- ( \$600,000 in planning grants is included in the budget to double the number of P-TECH schools in Maryland from six to 12 in FY 2018, along with \$255,000 to support students in the existing schools.



## Other Education Programs

- ( The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), which promotes the employment and independence of individuals with disabilities, receives \$118.1 million in FY 2018. The governor's bud-

get commits an additional \$1 million in state funds to DORS in order to reduce the waitlist for services by more than 600 individuals.

- The governor's budget invests \$2.7 million in additional state funds for the Child Care Subsidy program, an increase of 7 percent, bringing total state funding to \$43.5 million. A portion of the increased funding will support a 2 percent increase in subsidy rates paid to providers.
- The budget includes \$10.5 million in additional funds for school lunch and breakfast programs, bringing the total for school nutrition programs to \$439.8 million in FY 2018.
- The governor's budget provides a \$2.2 million enhancement in state funding for the Autism Waiver program to expand services to an additional 100 children. Total funding of \$21.6 million will allow 1,100 children diagnosed with severe autism to receive services in their communities rather than in more restrictive and expensive institutional settings.
- The Broadening Options and Opportunities for Students Today (BOOST) Program grows by \$2 million to \$7 million as part of the governor's commitment to doubling funding for the program over three years. BOOST provides scholarships for low-income students in areas with under-performing schools to attend non-public schools, giving them the opportunity for a better education.
- The FY 2018 budget includes a \$1.5 million or 2.1 percent increase to fully fund aid to local libraries at \$75.7 million.
- The budget fully funds the state aid formulas for the Maryland School for the Deaf at \$31.6 million and the Maryland School for the Blind at \$23 million.

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## School Construction

- ( School construction projects total \$334 million, accounting for one-third of FY 2018 capital spending: \$280 million for the traditional public school construction program, \$40 million for supplemental funding for public school districts with high enrollment growth, \$6 million for the Aging Schools Program, \$4.8 million for federal Qualified Zone Academy Bond projects and \$3.5 million for improvements to aging non-public school facilities.
- ( The budget also includes \$20 million to meet the state's annual commitment to the multiyear Baltimore City schools revitalization and reconstruction program.

## Health Care

- ( The FY 2018 budget includes more than \$11 billion for Maryland's Medicaid program, which currently provides basic health coverage for more than 1.3 million Marylanders.
- ( An additional \$79 million in FY 2018 funds a 2 percent rate increase for most health care and group home providers. Included in this total is \$22 million for the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to benefit direct care workers serving some of Maryland's most vulnerable people.
- ( The FY 2018 budget includes \$7.4 million for two new waiver programs aimed at reducing the Waiting List for DDA services. Building on existing efforts, these new waivers will allow DDA to extend services to an additional 400 Marylanders with disabilities.
- ( Continued operating and capital assistance is provided in FY 2018 for the new Prince George's Regional Medical Center in Largo.

## Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- ( The FY 2018 Medicaid budget contains \$1.3 billion for mental health and substance use disorder treatment, including \$31.1 million for new

services targeting children and young adults under the age of 21 who have autism.

- ( In addition to the \$159 million in the FY 2018 budget dedicated to existing non-Medicaid substance use disorder treatment programs, \$2 million in new funding will bolster the state's effort to help those struggling with heroin and opioid addiction. Deficiency funding of \$2 million is also provided to supplement the state's current efforts.
- ( To help ensure the timely admission of individuals referred to state psychiatric facilities for court-ordered treatment, the governor has proposed spending an additional \$500,000 in FY 2017 and \$750,000 in FY 2018 to open a new 20-bed unit at Clifton T. Perkins Hospital Center.



## Services for Vulnerable Populations

- ( The FY 2018 budget includes \$1.1 billion in federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits for more than 395,000 households, \$129.2 million in heating and electricity assistance benefits for 269,000 households, and \$40.1 million to provide cash, medical and housing benefits to 18,000 people with disabilities.