



## CLEARING UP BUDGET CONFUSION: FEDERAL FUNDING EXPECTED TO FILL GAPS

On Wednesday, the House and Senate Appropriations committees signed off on a new executive order, which outlined budget cuts designed to address the 2020 fiscal year shortfall.

Several members have reached out to MCO expressing confusion about the impact this new deal will have on the corrections budget based on the media coverage they have seen. We hope this article clears a few things up.

[Executive Order 2020-155](#) will reduce general fund dollars in the budget for the MDOC. However, the state will be using Coronavirus Relief

Fund dollars to cover payroll and other operational costs. These decisions are part of a bipartisan effort to responsibly address the current budget crisis. The moves were designed to maximize general fund dollars and use the limited discretion given to the state to utilize federal funds to cover the economic shortfalls created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The state senate and house passed [SB 373](#) and [HB 5265](#), which were the additional components of this budget deal.

The legislature will now turn their

focus to the FY 2020-2021 budget, where the state faces a roughly \$3 billion deficit.

Michigan, along with every state, is facing an economic crisis, and it's crucial that Congress passes legislation providing federal relief for states to address their budget shortfalls. Congress has yet to pass legislation to provide states with additional assistance. If this does not happen, we can expect devastating cuts in the future. MCO will continue to engage the governor and legislators about the budget.

## COVID-19: UPDATES ON HAZARD PAYMENT ERRORS, TRANSFER FREEZES, AND MORE

- The final hazard payments were on yesterday's paychecks.

Beginning next week, the Department will now go back and correct errors in payments that occurred due to timekeeping and payroll program issues. MDOC will send out a Department-wide email that will direct employees to report errors and shortages for correction. The makeup payments will come as a gross pay adjustment on your check once approved.

When checking for errors, please note that if you used any type of leave, including comp time, you do not get hazard pay for the days on leave. Also, hazard payments were two pay periods behind, so make sure you're looking at the right pay period and paycheck.

There were two primary errors to watch for: hazard pay for working on Memorial Day and hazard pay when working voluntary overtime prior to your assigned shift.

Hazard pay ended June 27 because federal funding for it expired. Unless additional federal funding is approved, return of hazard pay is unlikely.

- MDOC administration has lifted the COVID-19 transfer freeze and routine transfers may resume. The WHV transfer freeze for women is still tied up in federal court.

- As previously reported, MCO has filed a grievance related to the use of leave credits for virus-related absences. MCO maintains our position that absences forced by the MDOC should

have been covered by administrative leave.

If the employer has forced you to use leave time for quarantine or illness, please [fill out this form](#) for the MCO Legal Department.

- Stay up to date on all of MCO's announcements on COVID-19. Visit [mco-seiu.org/covid-19](http://mco-seiu.org/covid-19) and our members-only [Facebook group](#).

- There have been 404 COVID-19 cases confirmed among MDOC staff and 3,874 among inmates. [MDOC posts the latest numbers \(broken down by facility\) here.](#)

Thank you, members, for your dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## BARGAINED PRE-SHIFT MEETINGS TO RETURN IN OCTOBER; PLANNING UNDER WAY NOW

Pre-shift meetings will return in October. [MCO bargained their return.](#) MDOC has notified wardens to find an appropriate meeting place at the facility and think through other considerations, such as gate traffic and social

distancing, if needed.

MCO leaders have had discussion with the Department about the content and purpose of the meetings. Our position is the meetings should be primarily for sharing important info

about what's going on at the facility, but also an opportunity to focus on wellness.

MCO will share additional information as we get closer to October.