



GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET INCLUDES INCREASED FUNDING FOR EMPLOYEE WELLNESS, TRAINING ACADEMY

Governor Whitmer released her Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal in mid-February. While incoming revenues were stronger than predicted, providing more general fund dollars than the administration thought they would have initially, long term structural budget challenges remain.

However, with negotiations in Washington D.C. heating up, it is possible that Michigan could receive additional federal funding to fill the gaps. If the U.S. Senate does not reduce the state and local relief funding outlined in the COVID-19 relief bill passed by the House, Michigan would receive approximately \$5.7 billion to help address the impact of COVID-19 on the state. These funds would also have less restrictions placed on them than previous federal COVID-19 funding, allowing the state to address a wider range of economic issues.

The governor's recommended overall FY 2022 MDOC budget is approximately \$2 billion and features changes to funding for training new custody staff and employee wellness. The governor's recommendation provides an additional \$809,400 in funding for employee well-

ness programs, increasing the overall funding to \$2 million.

The recommendation addresses training new custody staff by outlining overall spending of approximately \$21.1 million to train around 800 new custody staff. However, the recommendation decreases baseline funding for training new custody staff from the previous \$9.5 million to \$7.4 million, a difference of around 80 new officers. This is a trend that would likely be continued throughout future budgets, with no commitment to consistently boost funding with one-time spending fixes. Officer staffing levels are dangerously low, and the state loses about 50 officers a month. The state currently has a vacancy of 665 officers.

State Senate and House appropriations subcommittees are now working to develop and finalize their version of the budget.

MCO officials have had several initial meetings with lawmakers to discuss the budget recommendations as well as COVID-19 relief. We will continue to keep you updated as this budget process continues.

- Story by Jonovan Luckey

MI STAY WELL OFFERS RESOURCES FOR FRONTLINE STAFF

Join [Michigan Stay Well](#) for "Uplifting our First Responders and Frontline Workers," a free, 1-hour webinar designed for frontline and emergency response employees.

The webinar will consist of a presentation followed by an interactive discussion.

This event is Tuesday, March 9 at 3 p.m. [Go to our website](#) for registration information.

Stay Well is also offering virtual sup-

port groups for frontline workers every Thursday this month. More details and sign up information are on our [website](#).

Michigan Stay Well is a federally-funded program implemented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration (BHDDA) in partnership with the Michigan State Police.

- Story provided by Stay Well.

MBP CO STABBED AFTER TAKING CONTRABAND TV

A Marquette officer is recovering after an inmate stabbed her.

The assault happened Saturday as the officer was releasing Level V prisoners for yard. When she opened his cell door, he began stabbing her on her head and face with a sharpened weapon and punching her. She defended herself and tried to gain control of him. Her partners heard the commotion and responded to the gallery she was on to restrain the prisoner.

She was transported to the hospital for treatment of lacerations on her head and face, then released later that evening.

The officer had taken a contraband TV from this inmate.

Please keep an eye on each other while making rounds and during movement. Great job by her partners to get to her as quickly as possible and regain control.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER!

Don't forget, applications for the MCO Scholarship, Academy Assistance, or Student Debt Assistance must be postmarked by April 1. This deadline is earlier than in previous years.

- [MCO Scholarship Program](#).

Deadline: April 1.

- [Academy Assistance Program](#).

Deadline: April 1.

- The [Student Debt Assistance Program](#). Deadline: April 1.

• MCO also offers [free online community college](#). Deadline: rolling (classes start every few months).

Good luck!