

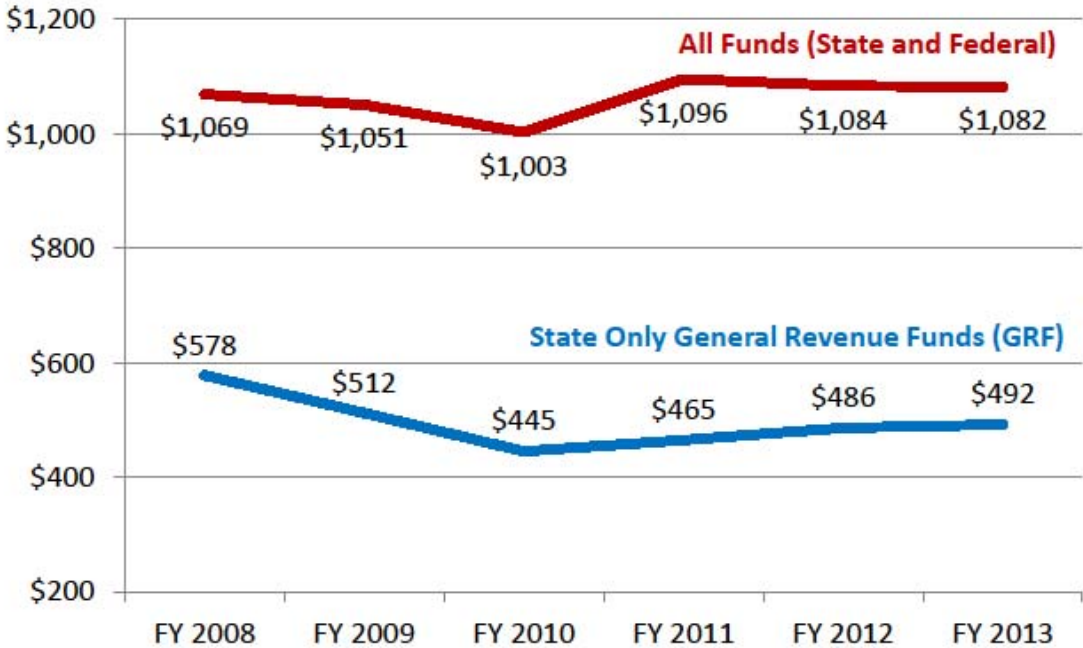


Investing in Improvements in Mental Health

Serious mental illness is the leading cause of disability in the U.S., affecting people of all ages, income, education levels and cultural backgrounds. Governor Kasich's Jobs Budget (HB 153) reversed the recent downward trend in mental health spending and enacted reforms to stabilize and improve community mental health services for Ohioans who are in need.

- Governor Kasich's Jobs Budget **increased state funding for mental health** by 5.7 percent (\$26.8 million) over two years, reversing a downward trend since 2008 in which state funding was reduced by 19.5 percent (\$112.4 million). This allowed the state to hold all-funds spending for mental health close to 2011 levels, which were inflated that year with \$32.6 million in one-time federal stimulus funds.
- The Jobs Budget **created a single point of accountability** for Medicaid-funded behavioral health services, within Ohio Medicaid, instead of having it spread across multiple state agencies and local boards. This move clarifies and aligns responsibility among state agencies and frees up community levy funding, allowing local ADAMH boards to focus on providing non-Medicaid community services and supports.
- The Ohio Department of Mental Health **consolidated two state psychiatric hospital sites** in Northeast Ohio, maintaining the same bed capacity and realizing at least \$4 million annually in savings on overhead and personnel costs, thereby avoiding the need to make reductions of that amount in essential community-based services.
- Ohio Medicaid is **improving the community mental health benefit package** to address gaps and better coordinate physical and behavioral health care. The rate of chronic physical health conditions is higher among people with severe mental illness than among Ohio's general Medicaid population. Better coordination among health-care providers will mean that patients needing both types of services will no longer be treated within separate "silos." This coordination will save money and lives.
- ODMH is **standardizing forensic policies, funding, practices and partnerships** among courts, local boards, community forensic providers and state hospitals to assure adequate services and appropriate placements. This is important to address a two-decade increase in the number of patients with a forensic legal status in Ohio's regional psychiatric hospitals. One key strategy is to give courts an option to divert nonviolent, misdemeanor offenders to more appropriate civil inpatient commitment or community treatment.

Ohio Department of Mental Health Funding



Governor's Office of Health Transformation

Source: Ohio Department of Mental Health (December 2011)
Note: FY 2013 amounts include \$184 million GRF (\$527 million all funds) appropriated to Ohio Medicaid for mental health services