

PA Budget Matters to You! Investing in Public Health, Safety

By State Rep. Ann Flood

SLATE BELT - Ensuring the health and safety of all Pennsylvanians is a core function of government. That's why the 2022-23 state budget continues significant investments in support of that goal.

This budget will allow the Pennsylvania State Police to train two new cadet classes, which will add up to an additional 200 troopers to protect communities throughout the state. To reduce the trend of increasing crime and diminishing local law enforcement capacity, local police and law enforcement will also benefit from \$135 million in one-time federal relief funds for local law enforcement support grants.

With gun violence on the rise, we allocate \$50 million in federal relief funds for gun violence investigation and prosecution grants.

To improve access to mental health care in Pennsylvania, the budget allocates \$100 million in one-time federal relief funds for a collaborative care mental health initiative.

To further ensure access to health care, the budget increases Medicaid reimbursement rates to emergency medical services providers to help them continue their life-saving work.

Recognizing the ongoing costs related to COVID-19 and workforce struggles, this budget allocates \$250 million in federal relief funds to help long-term care providers, including nursing homes, assisted living facilities, personal care homes, and home and community-based services, as they strive to provide compassionate care to their patients. The budget also provides a \$35/day increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates in nursing homes and increases the state supplemental grant for personal care home and domiciliary care residents by \$200 a month, the first increase since 2006.

To help recruit more health care providers, the budget allocates an additional \$35 million in federal relief funds to support the nurse loan forgiveness program, and increases the primary care loan repayment program by \$1.3 million to provide 50 additional awards for physicians practicing primary care in medically underserved areas, which includes some of our rural communities.

I'll be highlighting other key initiatives contained in the budget in the coming weeks. You may also read more at PAHouseGOP.com/statebudget.



House Republicans have been leaders in, and remain committed to, ENSURING OUR LAWS ARE FULLY ENFORCED AND REVERSING THE TREND OF LIMITING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES.

This state budget funds:

- The hiring of 200 additional PA State Troopers
- Local law enforcement support grants
- A joint local-state task force to help combat Philadelphia's out-of-control gun violence

Grants Available for Environmental Education Projects

By Michael Ortoski

SLATE BELT - The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is seeking applicants for \$900,000 in state grant funding available for environmental education projects.

The grants are available to schools, colleges, nonprofit community and environmental organizations, county conservation districts, and businesses, for projects that engage teachers, youth and residents in actions that help protect Pennsylvania's natural resources.

While all education project topics are considered, priority areas are water quality, climate change and environmental justice. Project examples include tours, demonstrations and hands-on learning experiences, and workshops on stream monitoring, rain gardens, wetlands, green infrastructure and other watershed stewardship; solar and other renewable energy, alternative transportation, energy conservation and other approaches to address climate change; and improving air quality and community and municipal partnerships to address local environmental challenges.

Projects with a local focus may receive up to \$5,000, and regional or statewide initiatives may receive up to \$30,000. Projects that engage students and teachers at three levels, local, state and national, may be awarded up to \$85,000.



Environmental Education GRANTS

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