



# BUDGET<sup>2007/2008</sup>

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE (D)

## 2007/08 PROPOSED BUDGET SELECTED ALLOCATIONS FOR ALLEGHENY COUNTY

**REGIONAL CANCER INSTITUTES:** The 2007/08 proposed budget includes \$2 million for Regional Cancer Institutes. One of the institutions to receive funding is the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Center.

**CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY:** Proposed allocation is \$231,000, down from \$254,000.

**CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER:** Proposed allocation is **\$231,000, down from \$254,000.**

**THE CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE:** The proposed budget maintains the current level of funding at \$970,000.

**CORRECTIONS:** The Governor is proposing to reopen State Correctional Institution (SCI) Pittsburgh at a cost of \$32 million. SCI Pittsburgh originally had been closed in January 2005. Reopening the prison would allow the Department of Corrections to house an additional 750 inmates, and would provide the capacity for as many as 1,500 inmates. 374 additional jobs will be created to staff the reopened institution.

**COUNTY CHILD WELFARE:** The County Child Welfare appropriation under the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) provides state and federal funds to support county-administered social services programs for children and youth in each of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Based on the type of services delivered, varying levels of state reimbursement are provided to counties. This is often referred to as a county match on state Act 148 dollars. The proposed budget includes \$947.8 million in state funds, carrying the county match, for child welfare programs. This reflects an increase of \$67 million over 2006/07. The proposed budget also includes \$15 million, half of the amount appropriated in 2006/07, for Child Welfare – TANF Transition, which has not carried the traditional county match in previous years.

**EDUCATION:** The proposed basic education funding for the school districts in Allegheny County is \$406,551,058. This represents a **3.76% increase of \$14,732,049** over the 2006/07 appropriation of \$391,819,009

**HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT:** Housing and Redevelopment Assistance Funding **increases to \$35 million**, up from \$30 million. Assuming Pittsburgh receives 20 percent of the funds available, their total allocation is **\$7 million – an additional \$1 million.**

**HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND:** The 2007/08 proposed budget **includes \$33.8 million for the Human Services Development, a \$2.5 million or 6.9 percent decrease over 2006/07.** In 2006/07, Pittsburgh received approximately \$4 million in funding through this appropriation.

**INFRASTRUCTURE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Collaboration between Carnegie Mellon and Lehigh universities to enhance the operational efficiency of businesses. The Governor proposes \$500,000 - **a decrease of \$5.5 million.**

**LIFE SCIENCES GREENHOUSES:** The state's three Life Sciences Greenhouses will receive \$3 million next year from the Tobacco Settlement Fund, the same amount they are now getting. Assuming the appropriation is split equally the **Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse** will receive **\$1 million**.

**POISON CONTROL CENTERS:** The 2007/08 proposed budget includes \$1.1 million for Regional Poison Control Centers, an \$184,000 or **14.7 percent decrease** over 2006/07. Services are contracted with the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Poison Center.

**PORT OF PITTSBURGH COMMISSION:** Under PennPORTS, receives \$750,000 for next year a **decrease of \$750,000**.

**PUBLIC UTILITY REALTY TAX:** According to the Department of Revenue, the PURTA distribution for Allegheny County in 2005 was \$525,440.88. We can assume that this amount will register a modest increase for the coming year.

**SOUTHWESTEN VETERANS HOME:** The proposed budget **allocates \$11.2 million in state funds, up from \$10.5 million in the current budget**. The total funds (state, federal and additional) would increase overall funding from \$19.7 million to \$21 million.

**SUPER COMPUTER CENTER:** Receives \$1.2 million for next year **a decrease of \$1.3 million**.

**SALES TAX:** The 2007/08 budget proposes **to increase the sales and use tax by 1 percentage point. For Allegheny County, this translates to an increase from 7% to 8%. This increase is worth approximately \$157 million in the coming year.**

**TRANSIT:** The Governor's budget includes an additional \$760 million for transit funding. This will be a 106 percent increase in state funding of transit, excluding bond-financed capital projects. The Governor's Budget provides no information on how the new money will be allocated among all the transit agencies. The Final Report of the Governor's Commission on Transportation Funding and Reform issued last November recommended linking new funding to need and performance but provided no further information what this would mean in terms of specific funding to each transit agency. Historically, the Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC) receives 24.2% of all funding. In recent years, the Pennsylvania Public Transit Association, with the Authority's agreement, recommended that PAAC receive 22.5% of any additional funding. The additional money, therefore, might mean potentially between \$171 million and \$187 million to PAAC. For 2006/07, PAAC is estimated to receive about \$185.6 million, including \$30 million in bond-financed capital projects and \$47.3 million in Federal Flex Funds.

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH:** The University of Pittsburgh would receive **\$167.8 million, up from \$164.6 million**.