

State Operating Budget (FY 2024-2025) Highlights



On Monday, July 3rd, the Governor signed House Bill 33, the state operating budget for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. This budget contains numerous provisions impacting MORPC members in a wide range of policy areas, including housing, community development, transportation, and public safety:

Housing

State Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC)

The state will administer a tax credit to encourage low-income housing development, capped at \$100 million of credits per fiscal year

Welcome Home Ohio Fund

\$100 million was appropriated to a new Welcome Home Ohio Fund, which will provide grants for land banks to purchase and flip residential property for income-restricted owner occupancy

Transportation

Rural Connectivity Funding (Connect4Ohio)

\$500 million was appropriated for road and bridge projects to improve commute times to job sites, with priority for rural areas

Rail Safety Funding

\$100 million was appropriated to a new Wayside Detector Grant Program and \$100 million was appropriated to the Rail Safety Crossing Fund

Public Safety

Distracted driving penalty requirements

Requires any driving course taken in lieu of the \$100 fine to be completed within 90 days of the offense, and stipulates that completion of the course does not dismiss the charge

Community Development

Competitive Bidding Threshold Increase

The statutory competitive bidding threshold for local governments was increased to \$75,000, with 3 percent increases annually after 2024

Sewer and Water Funds

A new round of the Water and Sewer Quality Program grants will be administered by the Department of Development

Brownfield Remediation and Demolition Programs

The Brownfield Remediation Fund and Building Demolition and Site Revitalization Fund were afforded \$350 million and \$150 million, respectively

Strategic Community Investments Fund

\$700 million was set aside for a One-Time Strategic Community Investments Fund, which will be used to fund community projects as directed by the General Assembly