

## State Budget

The Michigan state legislature recently gave final approval to a \$54.9 billion state budget, sending the bills to Governor Snyder for his signatures. The budget includes just under \$10 billion from the state's general fund.

Included in the budget is \$114.3 million in supplemental funding to aid Flint with its water crisis. This includes \$12.75 million to help city residents pay their water bills, \$25 million to replace the city's water pipes, and \$3.9 million to keep Flint with the Detroit water system.

Education funding was also a hallmark of the budget. Lawmakers passed a \$16 billion omnibus budget that includes all the education-related money for K-12, universities, community colleges, and the Department of Education. Included were capital outlay projects that encompassed \$214 million for the state's share of costs for eight public university projects and \$29 million for the state's share of six community college projects. Overall, per pupil funding will increase between \$60 and \$120 per student. \$72 million of the education budget was also outlined for Detroit Public Schools.

Additionally, a conference committee rewrote the previously controversial budget proposal that would have shifted management of health funding to HMOs. The revised proposal calls for the Department of Health and Human Services to partner with a workgroup—that includes but is not limited to the Michigan Community of Mental Health Boards, Medicaid health plans, and advocates of consumers of behavioral health services—to make recommendations regarding the most effective financial model and policies for behavioral health.