



**News Release**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PRESS RELEASE ATTACHMENT

**WAYNE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TAKES ACTION TO RESTRUCTURE COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND  
INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN SERVICE DELIVERY**

**FIRST PHASE OF RESTRUCTURING TO SAVE COUNTY'S GENERAL FUND  
\$3 MILLION ANNUALLY**

**Restructuring Highlights**

- 1) **Consolidate Departments of Health and Human Services, Children and Family Services, Senior and Veterans Services, and Division of Community Development into a new Department of Health, Community Wellness and Senior Services to improve service delivery for Wayne County residents.**

**Current Services:**

- The County provides a range of direct services to Wayne County residents through several departments. These silo operations often do not communicate despite sharing "the human factor" of providing services that impact the social and physical wellness of County residents.
- Although services provided by these departments overlap, similar programs are not connected, thus creating redundancies and inefficiencies.

**Transformed Services:**

- Similar and related functions now performed by the departments of Children and Family Services, Health and Human Services, Senior and Veterans Services and the division of Community Development are consolidated into a new Department of Health, Community Wellness and Senior Services.
- The new department coordinates health, social, educational, senior, veteran and youth services to communities and residents in Wayne County. All services and programs currently provided by the County will be preserved and delivered under the new department.



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### **Service Quality Enhancements:**

- County residents will access programs offered by the new model through “case managers and navigators” that connect residents with the appropriate resources and services.
- This new model offers “wrap around” service delivery. Residents will have greater access to services and programs that, in the past, required several layers of cross-departmental processes.
- The new department benefits from sharing resources, grants, and funding streams as a single entity.

### **Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the Wayne County General Fund is \$570,000** (due to centralizing administration and executive staff).
- Additional savings are expected in the long run from observed efficiencies and shared resources.

## **2) Shift the management of Seniors Food Program to Senior Alliance to provide a more efficient business model.**

### **Current Services:**

- The senior food program (Meals on Wheels) is a County operated program that provides home delivered meals, congregate meals and liquid nutrition to seniors living in Wayne County. The program is funded through a grant from the State of Michigan. The Senior Alliance is the direct recipient of this grant.
- The County administers the program on behalf of The Seniors Alliance. The cost of administering the program through the County exceeds grant funds and requires subsidies from the County’s general fund that ranged from \$400,000 to \$1,000,000 in past years.

### **Shift in Service:**

- Transferring the management and administration of the Meals on Wheels program to The Senior Alliance will preserve services and alleviate the need for supplemental funding from the County.



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**Service Quality:**

- The County will work with The Senior Alliance and the State of Michigan to ensure that the transition occurs seamlessly without interruption of services.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the County's General Fund is \$340,000.**

**3) Transition Family Shelter to a voucher program to efficiently meet the needs of County residents.**

**Current Services:**

- The Homeless Family Shelter in western Wayne County provides temporary housing services to families in need.
- The Shelter is located in the aged Kay Beard complex and requires constant maintenance and capital improvements. The building's capacity is limited to 25 families.
- The County contracts with Lutheran and Family Services to manage the services of the Shelter.
- The program is partially funded through a grant from the State of Michigan.

**Shift in Service:**

- Housing will be provided to families via a voucher program, a national "best practice" trend, whereby families are provided vouchers for lodging at local hotels/motels.

**Service Quality:**

- Temporary housing will continue to be offered to families through the use of grant funding, Community Development Block Grants and other resources.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the County's General Fund is \$330,000.**



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**4) Shift Library for the Blind services to the mailing service provided by the State of Michigan for a more effective business model.**

**Current Service:**

- The regional Wayne County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (LBPH) provide books on tape and Braille services to patrons in Wayne County who are physically and visually impaired.
- LBPH serves an average of 10 walk-in patrons daily. Other patrons order books on tape through LBPH but receive such materials by mail from the State of Michigan.
- All other services are requested by phone, mail or through the internet.
- Services are funded by the County and a small grant from the State of Michigan.

**Shift in Service:**

- Patrons who currently utilize the State's mail delivery system will have no change in service; they will continue to order and receive books and other materials directly from the State.
- For patrons who use the library building, the County will work with local libraries (including the City of Taylor) to provide direct services to these patrons.
- The County will donate its current inventory of audio tapes and other related materials, along with the small grant received from the State, to any municipality willing to offer these services.

**Service Quality:**

- Reading and other materials will still be available to patrons who are blind or otherwise visually impaired.
- Shifting the services to the State will not impact any of the services currently provided, rather it will eliminate the step of ordering books through the County.
- Transferring the County's LBPH holdings to a local municipality will provide interested patrons with a physical facility to utilize reading materials.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the County's General Fund is \$400,000.**



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**5) Right size staff at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility to match staffing levels with reduced youth population housed at the Facility.**

**Current Service:**

- The Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) is a licensed institution operated by Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services. It houses pre-adjudicated youth who are awaiting disposition of Wayne County Family Court delinquency petitions.
- The number of juveniles housed at the facility has sharply declined in the last several years, and the facility regularly operates at 55-60% of its licensed capacity.

**Staffing Level Changes:**

- Due to the significant decline in the juvenile population served at JDF, fewer care and custody staff is needed at the facility.

**Continuing Service:**

- Staffing levels will be proportionate to current levels of juvenile population.
- All licensing standards will be maintained, and staff reductions will not impact medical, mental health or classification operations at the facility.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the Wayne County General Fund is \$700,000, with an additional savings of \$700,000 to the State of Michigan.**

**6) Shift offenders from Alternative Work Force to non-Profit Service to cut County General Fund costs.**

**Current Service:**

- The Alternative Work Force (AWF) is a county-operated program that allows low-level offenders and misdemeanants to complete community service mandates issued by sentencing judges in Wayne County district courts and the Third Judicial Circuit Court. Typical work assignments include litter removal, sweeping, cleaning and community event setup.
- The program has suffered a material reduction in revenues during the past several years, resulting in increased reliance on Wayne County's general fund to support operations.



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- Unlike other adult offender programs offered by Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services, AWF is not an evidence-based program that correlates to reduced recidivism. Additionally, the AWF model has not demonstrated that this program materially relieves stress on the Wayne County Jail.

**Elimination of Service:**

- The County will no longer participate in the AWF program. Rather, the County will work with its existing vendor network and other Wayne County non-profit agencies to expand and develop alternative community service sentencing options.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the Wayne County General Fund is \$800,000.**

- 7) **Eliminate Department of Economic Development Growth Engine (EDGE) and shift economic development activities to the Wayne County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to cut County General Fund costs.**

**Current Service:**

- The Economic Development Division's primary objective is to encourage and support new business investment, create jobs, and grow the County's tax base.
- There is a need to decrease General Fund expenditures while maintaining an effective Economic Development Program. It is important to continue this activity to ensure businesses locate to, and remain, in Wayne County.

**Staffing Level Changes:**

- Proposed changes will result in a net elimination of 4 general fund positions.

**Continuing Service:**

- The EDC will assume the County's economic development functions, including coordinating incentives and site selections for existing and prospective businesses.
- The EDC's services will be funded through the agency's existing administrative fees.

**Net Savings:**

- **The estimated savings to the Wayne County General Fund is \$550,000.**