Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services Levy: Past, Present and Future

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Agenda

• Overview of Community Solutions
• Review of current HHS levy funding
• State of the HHS levy fund
• Review of HHS levy increase
• Review of county needs and other factors
• Important Voting Information
• Questions and Answers
The Center for Community Solutions improves health, social and economic conditions through nonpartisan research, policy analysis, communications and advocacy.
Current Funding Setup

• Cuyahoga County has two funds that we will examine: The General Fund and the HHS levy fund
• The General Fund is sales taxes, etc.
• The HHS levy fund is comprised of two HHS levies
Current Funding Set

• Levy #1 (4.8 mill, 8 years): 1/2017-12/2024

• Levy #2 (3.9 mill, 2 years): 1/2019-12/2020

• Levy #2 (As proposed) (4.7 mill, 8 years): 1/2021-12/2028
How much money?

• Together, the HHS levies combined bring in $244 million per year.

• If the increase were to pass, the levy would bring an additional $35 million per year.

• Homeowners would pay an additional $41 per $100,000 valuation. Combined, the HHS levies would cost $296.93 per $100,000 valuation.
Where does the money go?

- Job and Family Services
- Child and Family Services
- Alcohol, Drug Addiction, Mental Health Services (ADAMHS)
- MetroHealth
- Juvenile Court
- Senior and Adult Services
- Office of Re-Entry
- Homeless Services
- Among others, also used as a match for state and federal funds.
HHS Levy Fund in trouble

• The HHS levy fund ended with $7.4 million deficit at the end of 2019. According to earlier projections, that deficit grows to at least $33.5 million in 2020 and up to $105 million in 2022.
• To offset the negative balance, the county did provide $15 million from General Fund to HHS levy fund.
• Foster care, an aging population, and the opioid epidemic contributed to the shortfall.
Clarifying Misconceptions

- Separate from opioid settlement dollars
- State budget helped, but not enough
- County Executive and Council agreed on county budget for 2020-2021, so open questions on what happens in 2021 if the levy increase passes
Election Day

• Election Day is March 17th
• The HHS levy is Issue 33.
Thank you!

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