

Significant budget items of interest to counties include:

- In the FY2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Community Health, \$39.2 million in new state general funds was designated for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids. For FY2016, the Governor's recommendations include a reduction of \$25.5 million in state general funds for Medicaid and PeachCare for kids, \$3.3 million to continue to ensure Healthcare Facility Regulation and \$172,768 in state funds for 11 new residency slots in primary care services.
- In the FY2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Human Services, \$15.2 million was included for child welfare services and \$1.3 million for the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. For FY 2016, \$35.4 million was included for child welfare services.
- In the FY 2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Corrections, \$420,038 was allocated for five community coordinators and counselors, one supervisor and a housing coordinator for the Governor's Office of Transitions, Support and Reentry. In FY 2016, the recommendation is to increase the amount for these positions to \$840, 075. Also in the 2015 amended budget, \$3 million was designated to create two charter high schools within the state prison system as well as funds to begin implementations of GED Fast Track and Learning Centers in all correctional facilities. In FY 2016, the recommendation is to increase the funding for these programs to \$12.1 million.
- In the FY 2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Community Affairs, the Governor has recommended an additional \$20 million for Regional Economic Business Assistance (REBA) grants and \$20 million for One Georgia Authority grants, both to assist local governments fund strategic economic development projects.
- In the FY 2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Revenue, the Governor has recommended an increase of \$15 million for Forestland Protection Act (FLPA) grants, bringing this year's total to \$29.1 million. About \$8.3 million will go directly to local school systems. For FY 2016, the Governor has requested only \$14.1 million for FLPA.
- The Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste Trust Funds, under the oversight of the Environmental Protection Division, are underfunded again in both FY 2015 and FY 2016, with less than a third of the monies collected in "fees" actually going toward their statutorily-designated purposes of assisting local governments clean up abandoned dumps, illegal scrap tire piles and hazardous waste sites.
- In the FY 2015 Amended Budget for the Department of Transportation, Motor Fuel collections were down \$12,708,460. The department transferred the remaining \$5,594,170 in the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) to satisfy debt service. For FY 2016, an additional \$5,922,309 is included for the I-285/GA 400 interchange project and as well as another transfer of \$7,639,539 from the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB) to satisfy debt service. A Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) of \$122,470,000 is also included. Motor Fuel Collections are down \$2,403,743 from the previous year.
- Within the Department of the State Accounting Office, the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission (Ethics Commission) had funding doubled from FY 15 level (\$1,350,262) for a total of \$2,637,624. The additional funding will be used for three new positions, merit pay increases, and funding for an e-Fax recognition system to properly handle the disclosure reports being sent from local filing entities.