

Richland County Children Services Levy replacement fact sheet

- Richland County Children Services has requested a 1 Mill replacement levy be placed before voters in November of 2013;
- The levy collection will not begin until January of 2015;
- We presently collect about 1.37 Mills on two 10-year, 1 mill (2.0 total) levies due to age and period in which levy was originally passed and renewed instead of replaced;
- The levy will generate roughly: \$1.9 million dollars per year before auditors or treasurers fees and without considering delinquencies, but the final amount remains to be certified;
- We currently collect approximately \$1.1 million dollars per year on renewals of the 1984 levy in 1994 and 2004;
- While it will result in additional monies based on property tax value changes, it is not a new tax;
- Ohio is 50th out of 50 states in the state share of child welfare funding leaving local counties responsible for a significant portion of this funding (Public Children Services Association of Ohio). In counties without local levies (approximately 43) this falls largely to the county's GRF. RCCS is a locally funded levy which makes up approximately 35% of our funding while, 58% is a federal share and just about 7% is state share. We do not presently take funds (except for vehicle, property and liability insurance) to operate from the GRF;
- The current 1984 levy (1994 and 2004) costs the owner of a \$100,000 home \$17.92 per year or less than .05 cents per day.
- If this replacement levy passes, both children services levies would cost a total of \$59.54 per year (on every \$100,000 in home value) or just slightly above .16 cents per day. This amounts to \$4.89 per month or the cost of 1.5 gallons of gas, 1 basic meal at McDonald's or Burger King or Wendy's etc...;
- We bring and we give back money to our community:
 - Expenditures in Richland County: \$2,051,616.92
 - Staff payroll: \$5,155,876.18 much of these funds are spent in our area for rent, mortgages, and other general expenditures that involve being a part of a community;
 - Vendors operating outside of Richland County: \$256,347.91 (note some of these have local offices such a Burlington Coat Factory, and Century Link where money is received out of county or state for vendor purposes, but there is a local office);

- We have a present fund balance of: \$5,278,438.94. This fund balance fluctuates monthly based on tax collections, state and federal reimbursements and changes such as how sequestration impacts the agency;
 - It is important to note that:
 - As public stewards of RCCS; our Board has determined it is responsible to set-aside \$1,548,222.00 for Capital Expenses (necessary improvements and maintenance costs) over the next 10 years. This is to ensure that we have the funds needed to manage our building and grounds safely and appropriately and in a fiscally stable manner now and in the future;
 - Factoring in Capital Expenses based on current projects, we have approximately \$3,730,216.94 in Operating Expenses which is at this time is approximately 5.3 months of operating expenses for our current 2013 budget. This is a reasonable, prudent and responsible step to take to insure against unforeseen issues which impact every one of us, including public agencies;
 - It is important to note that one child who requires residential services could cost the agency nearly 100,000 dollars per year and this there is no method to project these costs accurately in advance, making additional operating funds critical for a child protection agency;
- Our local levy allows us to leverage federal funds that would not be available to us otherwise:
 - If we did not have the 1984 levy, we would not be able to leverage about \$959,000 in federal funds;
 - If the replacement passes it will allow us to leverage about \$1,376,000 in federal funds;
 - If we did not have the 1999 levy, we would not be able to leverage about \$1,177,000 in federal funds;
 - If we did not have any levies, we would not be able to leverage a total of about \$2,136,000 in federal funds. (This assumes the 1984 levy is collected at its current amount. If the replacement passes, the total amount would increase to about \$2,553,000);
 - The loss of these leveraged funds would have an even greater negative impact on our ability to provide mandated services to our community. In short, we would no longer be able to provide many state and federal mandated services without other support from the county GRF;
- RCCS board made budget cuts in 2013 and will continue to closely monitor expenses and approve only expenditures within the budget or determined critical to agency operations;

- The need for agency services continues to grow, especially in Kinship care and other child permanency initiatives;
- There is a trend towards more adoptions (5 in 2012, 20 projected in 2013) which will result in greater monies needed for adoption subsidy payments for many years;
- This levy represents approximately 1/8th of agency funding to provide mandated services as well as the higher level of services our citizens expect;
 - **More critical to understand is that the loss of our ability to leverage federal funds with this levy would amount to a loss of approximately 25% of our operating revenue.**
- On 9/30/2012 the agency no longer receives a 500,000 kinship services grant (it was for three years and expired) and since this service is vital to our work, our Board voted to continue many key aspects of this successful program;
- In 2011, the RCCS Board voted to not collect approximately 1,000,000 in property tax values during a difficult fiscal period for our citizens. This should demonstrate that we are fiscally responsible and responsive and have when possible returned monies to our voters;
- The increase in drug addiction and the parenting issues drugs can cause is of great long-term concern to our agency;