



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Testimony of  
Karen K. Buffkin, Deputy Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management  
Before the Appropriations Committee  
February 16, 2012

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Karen Buffkin and I am here today to discuss the Governor's recommended FY 2013 adjusted budget for the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

OPM's recommended adjusted general fund budget of \$245 million is \$27.5 million, or 10.1%, less than the FY 2013 appropriation of \$272.5 million.

The net decrease primarily relates to the Governor's efforts to downsize state government through mergers and consolidations. The Governor recommends transferring funding and one position for the Elderly Renters Program in the amount of \$26.2 million into a new Office of Housing within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). The Governor also recommends consolidating funding for the Capital City Economic Development Authority and OPM's Rentschler Field administrative functions in the amount of \$5.9 million within DECD for better coordination of economic and community development initiatives in the Greater Hartford region. These funds will be used to support the new Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA), which includes the transfer of one OPM position to the CRDA.

OPM's personal services budget has further been reduced \$1.5 million to reflect savings from retirements and a wage freeze. In addition, the recommended budget proposes funding Regional Planning Agencies through the Regional Performance Incentive Account, saving the general fund \$0.5 million.

Funding is added to OPM's budget to preserve the health and human services safety net. OPM's budget includes \$8.5 million to provide a 1% cost of living adjustment for private providers of health and human services effective January 1, 2013.

Funding for the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) has been increased \$1.2 million to maintain the Offender Based Tracking System (OBTS) and to ensure the OBTS data is not compromised when the systems are merged. Funding is also proposed to support the Governor's Business Tax Policy Review Task Force and the Connecticut Sentencing Commission in the amounts of \$250,000 and \$85,000, respectively.

No reduction to municipal aid is proposed for: payments in lieu of taxes on state-owned and private tax-exempt property; payments that offset the revenue loss resulting from exemptions for totally disabled persons, elderly and permanently disabled homeowners, and eligible

veterans; and for those payments that offset the revenue loss in designated areas for eligible manufacturing facilities and the machinery and equipment installed in such facilities.

OPM's recommended adjusted insurance fund budget of \$353 thousand is \$6 thousand less than the FY 2013 appropriation of \$359 thousand reflecting a savings in personal services and fringe benefits due to a wage freeze. There are no recommended changes to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan fund FY 2013 appropriated budget of \$61.8 million.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. My staff and I would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.